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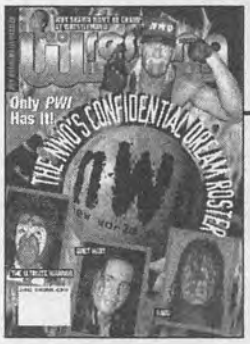

COVER DESIGN:
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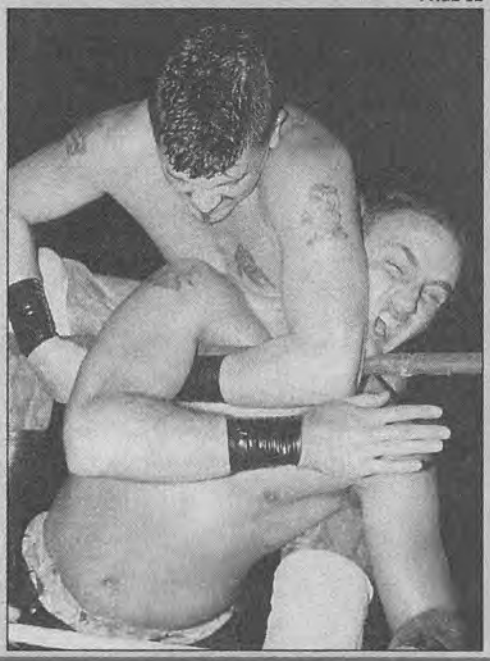

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE DECEMBER 3, 1996

CORRECTION: Due to an electronic file transfer error, we inadvertantly re-ran an earlier edition of *Wrestling Enquirer* in last month's issue. We sincerely appologize for the mistake.

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As Johnny B. Badd, he was a dynamic and exciting two-time WCW TV champ. As "Wildman" Marc Mero, he has actually toned down his antics too much for his own good

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Our own Bill Apter came across it while visiting Hulk Hogan's house. If this organization gets all these people, imagine how powerful it will be!

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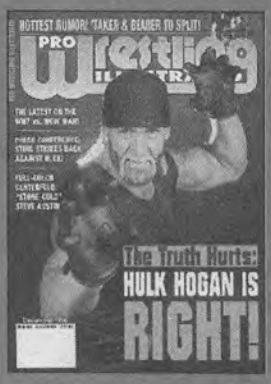
TALK IS CHEAP



Hulk Hogan had some harsh words for WCW and the fans when he turned rulebreaker in July, and although we tried to point out in our December issue that much of what he said was true, most fans didn't want to hear it. Our office has been flooded with letters and calls about Hogan in the last few months. Most fans are angry, but a few are supporting Hogan.

"I can't believe how self-centered Hogan really is!" wrote reader Emily O'Brien of Baltimore. "I always knew he was an egotistical blowhard, but I think this time he's lost his mind! And I refuse to believe what he said was right."

"Maybe there was some truth to what Hogan said, but I still think he was wrong to desert his fans," said "*PWI* Hotline" caller Chris Edwards of Marlton, New Jersey. "He was just looking for an excuse to slap us all in the face."

"I'm glad Hogan finally stood up to everyone," wrote Aaron Pickett of Los Angeles. "I bet he feels much better now that he has finally stopped pandering to the fans!"

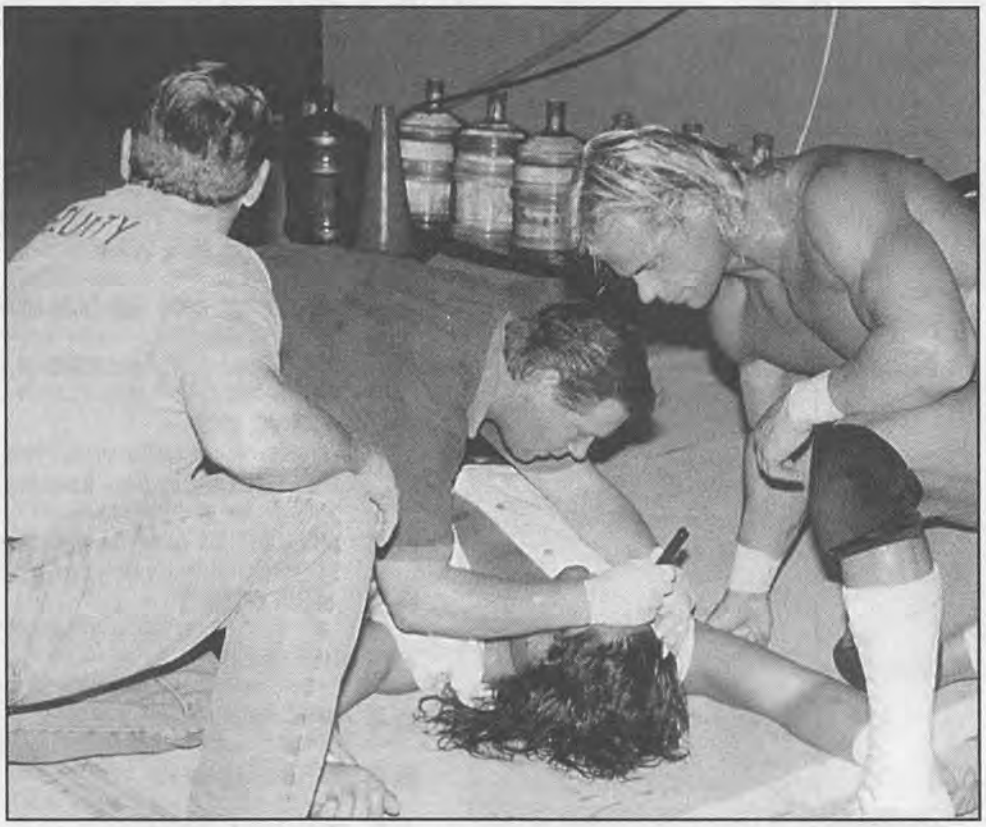
NWO OUTRAGE

I've been a wrestling fan for almost 12 years, and I've witnessed some pretty horrible things. Jim Cornette nearly blinding Ronnie Garvin, The Powers of Pain attacking The Road Warriors during a weightlifting competition, and Goldust being Goldust, just to name a few. Recently, though, I have become more and more outraged by "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan and his NWO cronies because of their complete disregard for authority and human decency.

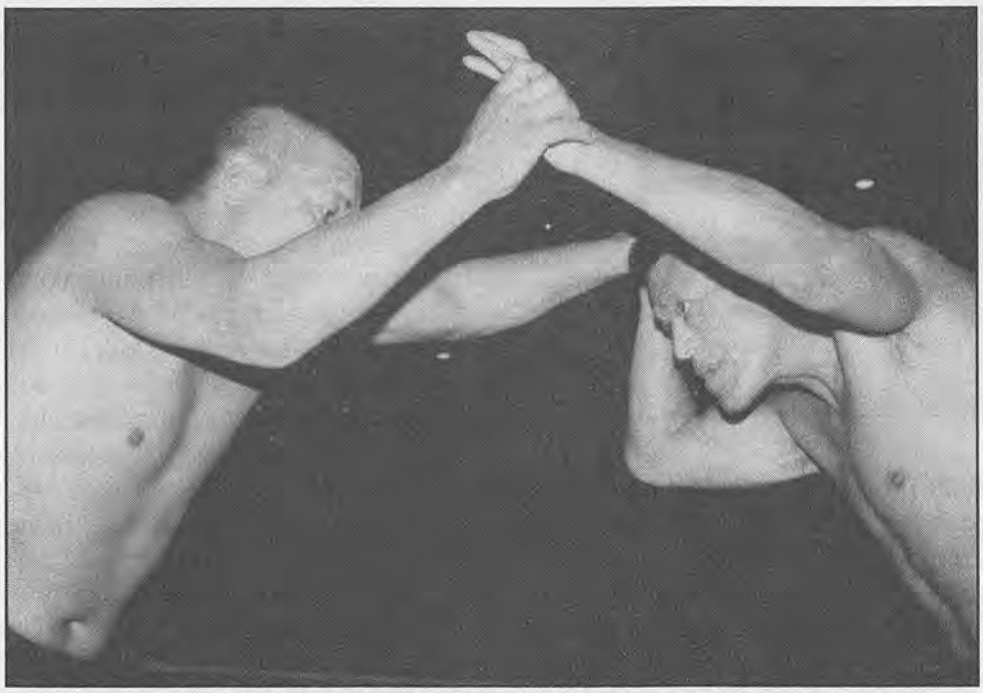
I'm referring to some of their attacks on several of WCW's top stars outside the ring.

I can almost understand why Scott Hall and Kevin Nash do these things. They want to make a name for themselves. But there was no reason for that lying, no-good snake Hogan to put the boots to some of his former allies. Here is a man children across the world looked up to and emulated; I thought of Hogan as a role model, too. Now, our reward for all our years of support is getting told to "stick it." Well, Hogan, you, the man who wants us to watch his TV shows and pay to see his movies, can stick it. And to his newest lackeys, I hope the Horsemen or Sting and Lex Luger sneak-attack you someday. Perhaps you will learn to show some respect when you receive a taste of your own medicine with a baseball bat.

MARVIN W. SHADE
Aiken, SC



Lex Luger tends to an injured Scotty Riggs after Riggs was sneak-attacked by the NWO outside a dressing room in July. Reader Marvin W. Shade hopes to see the NWO get sneak-attacked soon.



Yoshiaki Fujiwara and Antonio Inoki tie each other up during a match at June's World Wrestling Peace Festival. Reader David Miller is still upset that the WWF did not participate in the event.

DISTURBING THE PEACE

The WWF should be ashamed of itself for not participating in the World Wrestling Peace Festival ("Multipromotional Supercard! World Wrestling Peace Festival Unites The World!" November 1996). This would have been a great opportunity for the WWF to make up for those ridiculous "Billionaire Ted" skits and re-establish itself as a class act. Instead, the WWF thumbed its nose at Antonio Inoki's commendable attempt at capturing the spirit of the Olympics by uniting the wrestling world for one night of friendly competition.

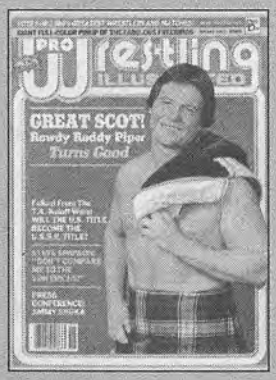
Why were there no WWF wrestlers on the card? Was it because of the infantile feud with WCW? Or was it because the WWF was afraid its wrestlers might get shown up by men like Dan Severn and Jushin Liger? And heaven forbid The Giant gets his hands on Shawn Michaels.

WWPF II has been scheduled for next year, so the WWF might get a second chance. Unless it's willing to work with other promotions, I don't think the it has the right to call itself the *World* Wrestling Federation.

DAVID MILLER
San Antonio, TX

(Continued on page 54)

10 YEARS AGO IN PW!



The cover of the January 1987 issue featured the "Rowdy Scot" himself, Roddy Piper, with a smile on his face. Piper was known for his notorious rulebreaking, but at the time, fans were warming up to him. After filming the movie Body Slam, he returned to the WWF to team with Hulk Hogan.

Elsewhere in the magazine: Michael Hayes, Buddy Roberts, and Terry Gordy, collectively known as The Freebirds, were spotlighted in the centerfold ... Nikita Koloff defeated Magnum T.A. to win the vacant U.S. title, and Nikita was reportedly ordered by the Kremlin to change the name of the belt to the U.S.S.R. belt. Our story described how a little-known NWA bylaw almost made it possible ... Jimmy Snuka discussed the state of the AWA in "Press Conference."

Magazine availability: Sold out.

PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED

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PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED, Vol. 17, No. 1, (ISSN: 1043-7576) is published monthly, with an additional issue in December, by London Publishing Co., 7002 W. Butler Pike, Ambler, PA 19002. Periodicals rate postage paid at Ambler, PA 19002 and additional post offices. Postmaster: Send change of address notices to: Pro Wrestling Illustrated, P.O. Box 910, Fort Washington, PA 19034. Single copy price $2.95 ($3.95 in Canada, £2.25 in U.K.). Subscription price $32.80 for 13 issues in the U.S., $43.20 in remaining countries. Not responsible for the loss or non-return of unsolicited articles or photographs, which will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed envelope bearing the proper amount of postage. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without the written permission of the publisher. All rights reserved. **FOR ADVERTISING INQUIRIES AND RATES:** (215) 643-6385. U.S. and Canadian distribution by Kable News Inc., 11 West 42nd St., New York, NY 10036. International distribution by Worldwide Media Service Inc., 115 East 23rd St., New York, NY 10010. U.K. distribution by Comag, Tavistock Rd., West Drayton, Middlesex UB77QE, England.

Printed in U.S.A.

RINGSIDE

With Bill Apter

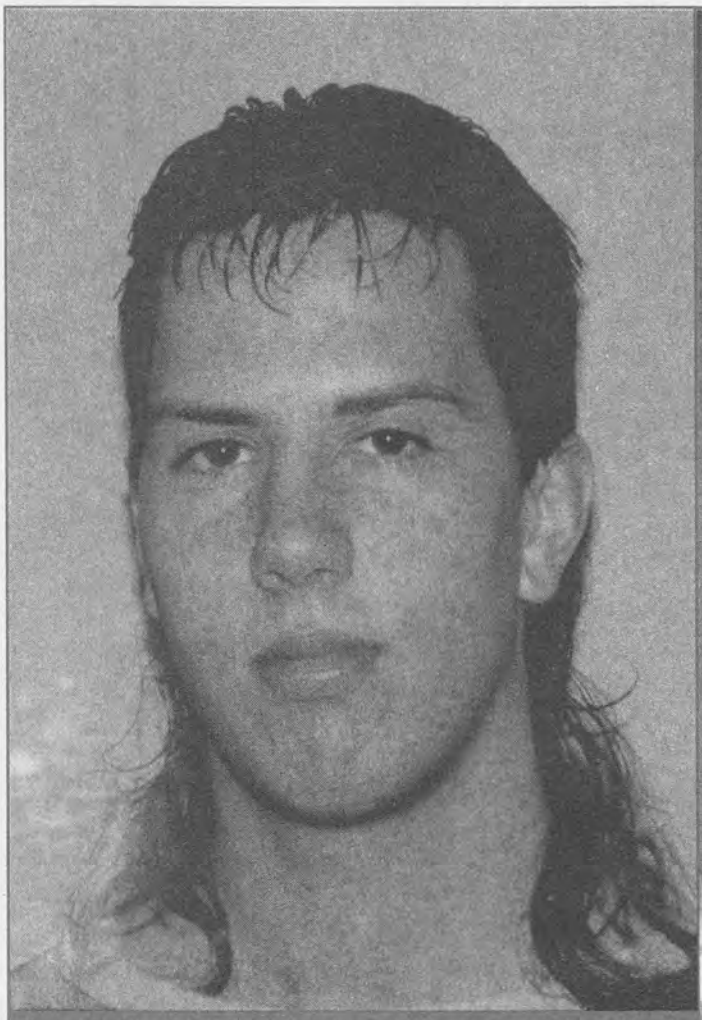
NWO MEMBERS **SCOTT HALL** and **Hulk Hogan** exchanged some heated words recently, but apparently—at least publicly—they have worked out their problems.

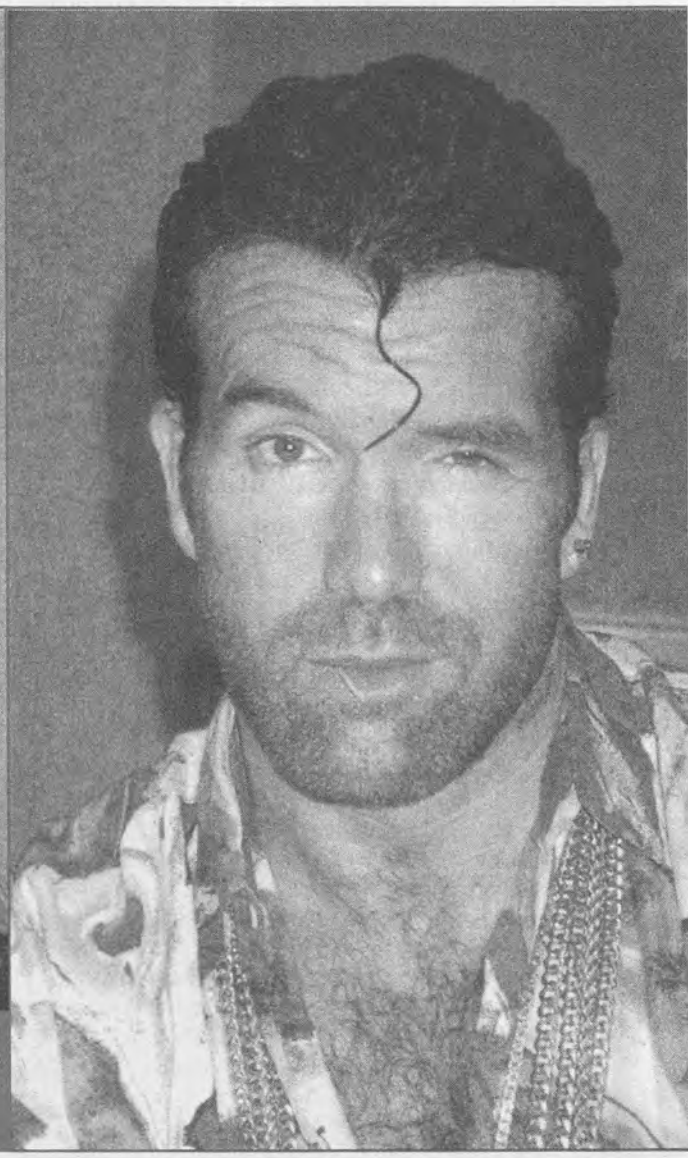
The trouble began when the NWO was debating whether to bring **The Kid**, now known as **Six**, into the organization. Hogan was initially against the idea, but because Six was once a good friend of Hall's, he went along with it. Hall was not too happy, though, when Hogan appointed Six as the NWO's chauffeur.

That's where more problems came up.

"Don't start rumors," Hogan warned me. "My initial objections to Six were strictly on a business level. It was nothing personal, and it's nothing I'll let you in on. Any problems that I had with Six have been dealt with, and they're over. I'm happy he's with us, brother. I hope he doesn't have too many violations on his driver's license, because this is a very important job."

Hall, I'm told, was not happy





Six, a.k.a. The 1-2-3 Kid (above), probably used his influence with Scott Hall (right) to gain entry into the New World Order. Hulk Hogan (opposite page, right) was hesitant to bring in Six at first, but he says he's now happy with him.

that Six was given such a menial position, and he became quite vocal about it—so vocal that **Ted DiBiase** had to intercede.

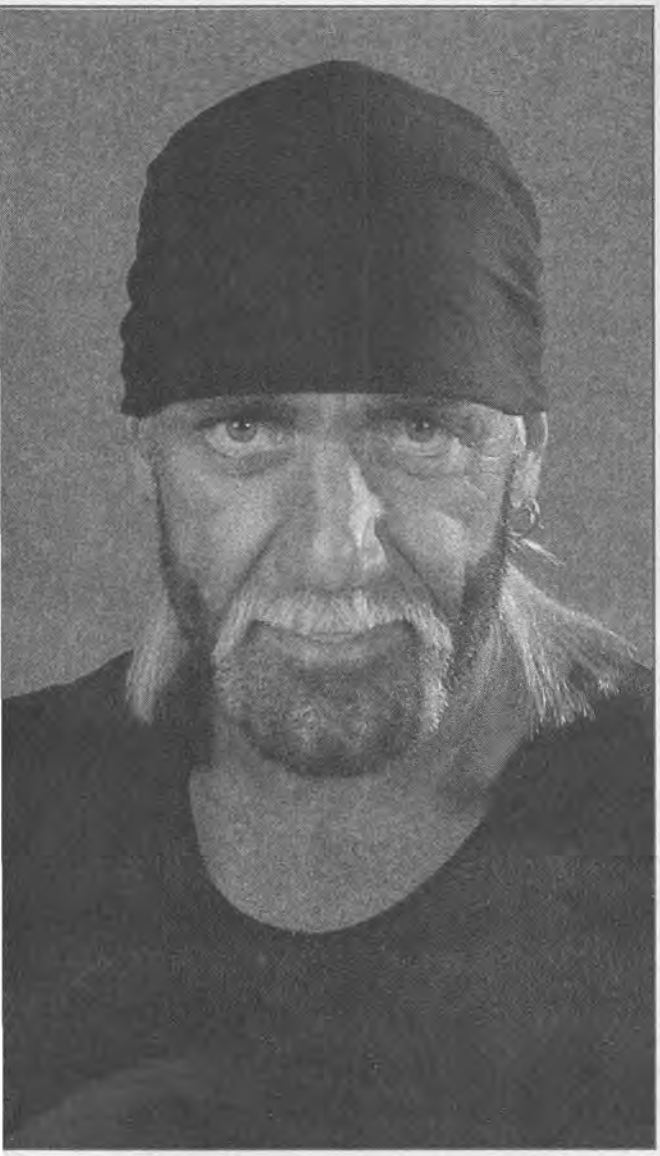
"Scott and Hulk have ironed out their differences," DiBiase said. "Six has an excellent position with our organization, and he could well be promoted to a higher position in the future."

"British Bulldog" Davey Boy Smith put all the rumors about him possibly joining the NWO to rest by signing a new five-year deal with the WWF. "The WWF would have been dead without 'Bulldog,'" said his manager, **Jim Cornette**. "He's one of their major drawing cards, plus I get like 20 percent of the multimillion-dollar contract he signed. Man, I am on easy street."

"James E. Cornette is worth every penny he makes from my deal," said Smith, "but I was under the impression he was only getting 10 percent. I'll have to look into this. I'm sure he isn't doing me wrong. He's my friend."

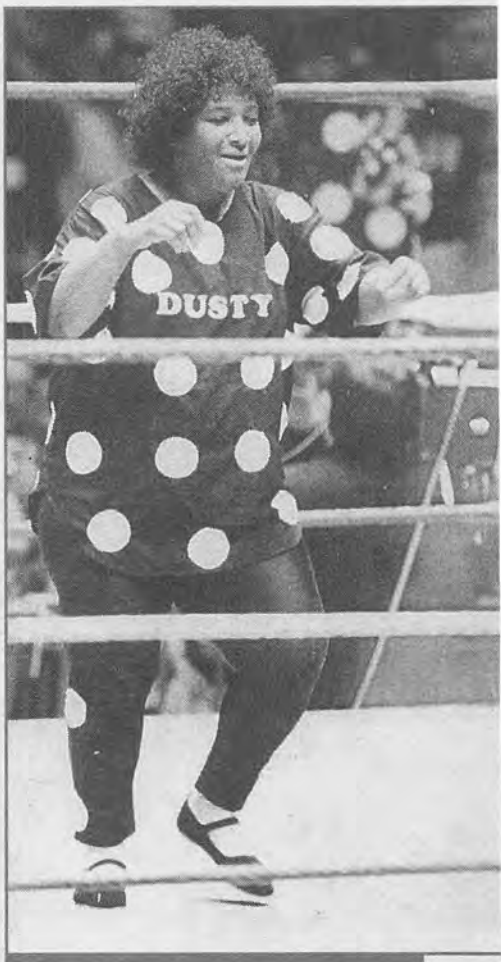
That's what he tells everyone he manages, Davey Boy.

I'm so sad to have to report two wrestling-related deaths: **Juanita Wright**, who took the name **Sapphire** when she managed **Dusty Rhodes** for a brief time in the WWF, died September 10 at her home in St. Louis after suffering a heart attack. She was 61 years old.



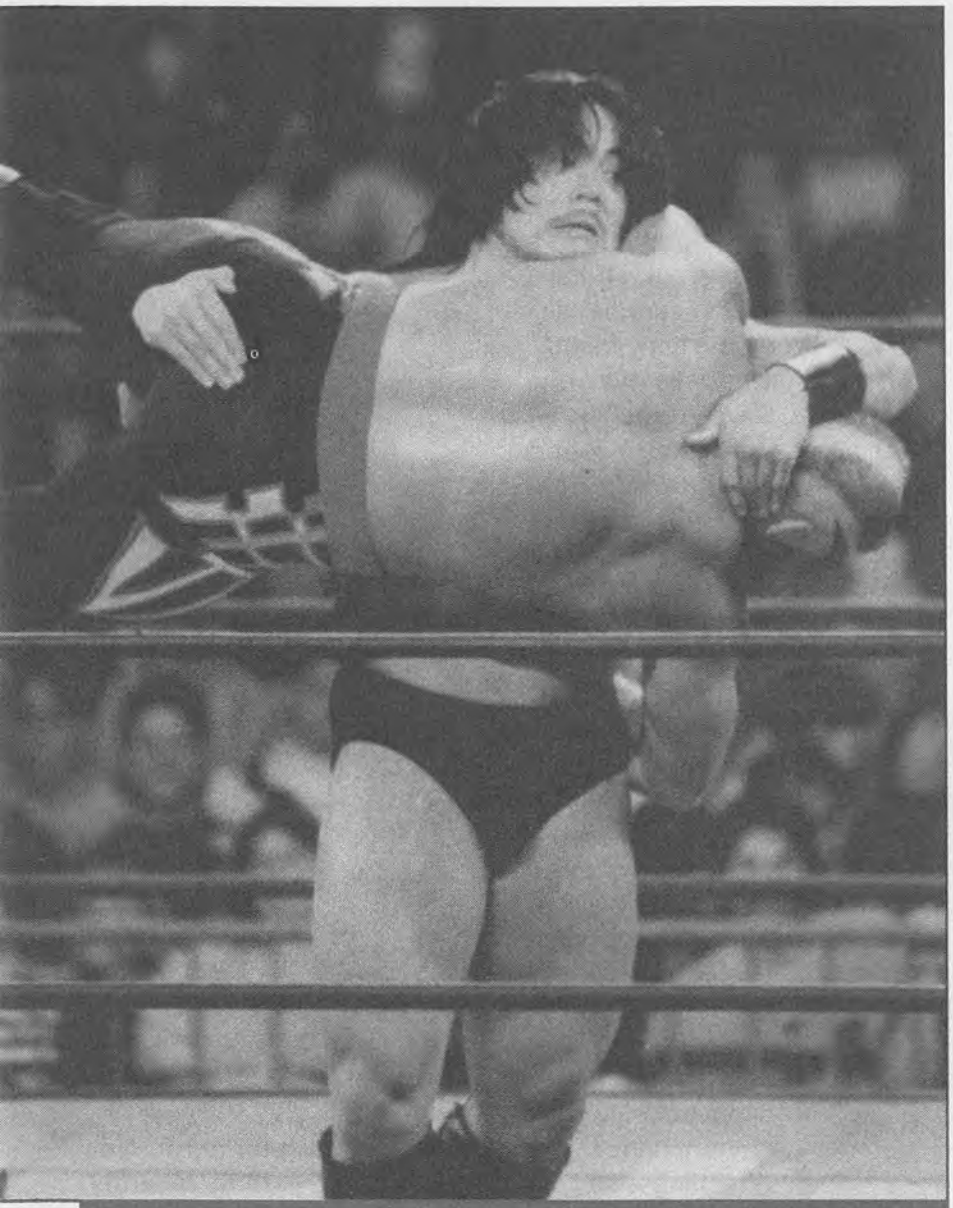
"She was a wonderful lady, and few people realize what a terrific strategist she was," Dusty said. "We'd sit for hours on end studying upcoming opponents. I'll really miss her" ... Wrestling also lost ring announcer **"Friendly" Bob Freed** on August 23. Freed, best known for his work in the old WWWF, was 77 at the time of his death.

When **Kurasawa** was wrestling regularly in WCW and being managed by **Col. Robert Parker** last year, he wasn't winning too many of his matches, but apparently he didn't get too discouraged. He left WCW and returned to New Japan Pro Wrestling recently, and his luck has changed completely. In September alone, he got clean victories over **Riki Choshu** and, during WCW's September tour of Japan, **Ric Flair**. He won both matches with a hold similar to **Lex Luger's** "human torture rack" ... **Scott Steiner** was unable to make that tour of Japan because he had an injured back; Luger subbed for him.



Juanita "Sapphire" Wright died at her home after suffering a heart attack. She briefly managed Dusty Rhodes in the WWF in 1990.

ECW TV champion **Shane Douglas** was on the sidelines for a few weeks after being struck in the neck with **The Sandman's** rattan cane ... ECW rookie **Kareem** suffered a broken bone in his right leg while attempting



Kurasawa was barely a mid-carder during his brief tenure in WCW last year. Now, by virtue of stunning victories over Riki Choshu and Ric Flair in September, he has become a top star in New Japan.

to leap off the top rope during a September match. The break was so bad that Kareem could be out of the sport for a whole year year. By the way, it was Kareem's first pro match.

Because of a prematch stipulation, **Jesse James Armstrong** and **Wolfie D** had to split up their team after losing a match to USWA tag team champions **Bill** and **Jamie Dundee** in September. Armstrong is headed back to the WWF, where he was once **Jeff Jarrett's** lackey, **The Roadie** ... Citing personal problems, ICW's **"Mean" Marc Ash** has decided to retire after a seven-year pro career.

It's time now to give you the answer to **Don Laible's** trivia question from our Winter 1996 issue. The question again: "While at West Texas State University, **Ted DiBiase** played football with four men who also went on to become pro wrestlers. Who were they?" The answer: **Manny Fernandez** (offensive lineman), **Tito Santana** (tight end), **Tully Blanchard** (quarterback), and **Kelly Kiniski** (linebacker).

This issue's stumper, and it's a good one: When **Road Warrior Hawk** first broke into wrestling in 1982, he wrestled for a promotion in British Columbia. He wasn't known as Hawk back then. What *was* his name?

The Eliminators, **Perry Saturn** and **John Kronus**, are trying to convince me that they are better than **The Road Warriors** were when they were at the peak of their careers.

"We've crippled and maimed more teams than the Warriors

(Continued on page 10)

Because Jesse James Armstrong and Wolfie D lost a stipulation match to Bill and Jamie Dundee, they will no longer be allowed to team in the USWA. JJA doesn't seem to mind, though, because he's headed back to the WWF.

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(Continued from page 8)

John Kronus and his partner in The Eliminators, Perry Saturn, make up one of wrestling's most athletically gifted duos. But as for their claims that they should be number one in our tag team ratings each month ... that's asking too much.

did, and we are more creative than any team in wrestling," said Kronus. "We create new moves that amaze the fans every time we wrestle. The Road Warriors never did that. We should be number one in your tag team ratings every month!"

All of you **Sunny** fans out there should be real happy now that the WWF has decided to give her more duties on TV. "Whenever I'm on TV, the ratings soar," she claimed. "They could put me on TV opposite the Super Bowl, and I guarantee the WWF ratings would far exceed the ratings for the game. It's so great to be me. I love it!"

That's all for now! I'll see you at ringside! □

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WRESTLER'S NAME (NO ACTUAL PRO WRESTLER NAMES, PLEASE) _____

WRESTLER'S HEIGHT _____ WRESTLER'S WEIGHT _____

SPECIAL GIMMICK OR DESCRIPTION OF WRESTLER _____

MANAGER'S NAME (IF NOT YOU) _____

Wear-Down Holds: Choose 10 from the list of 60 shown at left. List them in the order to be used. Use each hold only once

1_____ 2_____ 3_____ 4_____ 5_____

6_____ 7_____ 8_____ 9_____ 10_____

Set-Up Holds: Choose 5 from the list of 30 shown at right. List them in the order to be used. Use each hold only once

1_____ 2_____ 3_____ 4_____ 5_____

Finishing Hold: Create your custom final maneuver or choose a hold from the 90 shown. Limit the length to 20 letters and spaces.

FINISHING HOLD _____

Opponents: Check the numbers of the men you want your wrestler to go against from the 10 at the top. Remember to enclose $1.00 for each.

1__ 2__ 3__ 4__ 5__ 6__ 7__ 8__ 9__ 10__

FROM THE DESK OF...

Stuart M. Saks

BEFORE SHAWN MICHAELS goes to sleep at night, he does the same things most of us do: wash up, brush his teeth, floss. The very last thing he does before turning off the lights, though, is something no one else in the world can do. He cradles the WWF World championship belt in his arms, gives it a little kiss ("for luck"), and places it ever so carefully in his safe.

For 12 years, Michaels could only imagine what it would be like to be the sole man in the universe with the privilege of calling himself WWF World heavyweight champion. Often, he admits, he wondered if he would ever join the elite group of men to have done so. Even for one so outwardly self-assured as Michaels, self-doubt becomes a major opponent when a dozen years of effort have left you short of your life's goal.

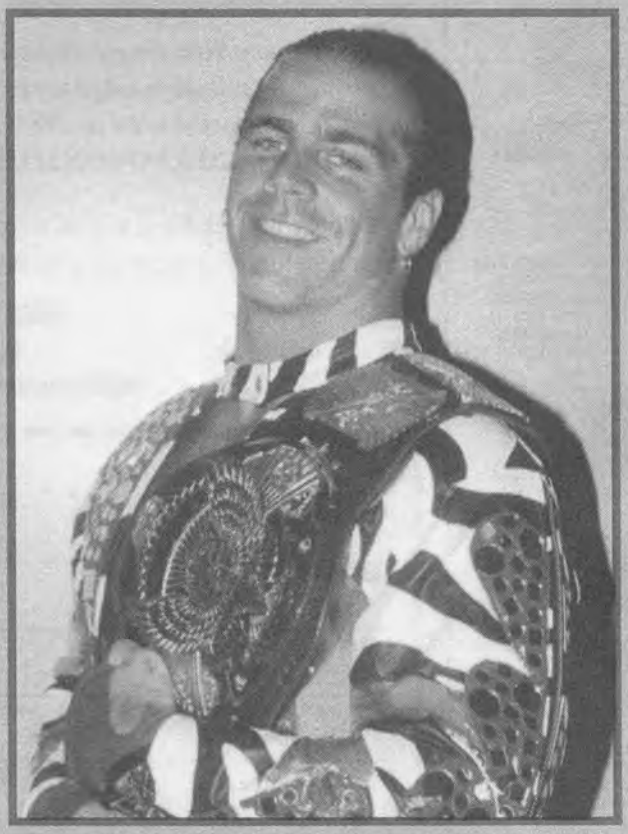
When Michaels dethroned Bret Hart at WrestleMania XII, his life was changed forever. It's very different when you've been chasing after something for so long, and all of a sudden you're the one being chased.

"It's kinda nice," said Shawn. "No, make that *real* nice."

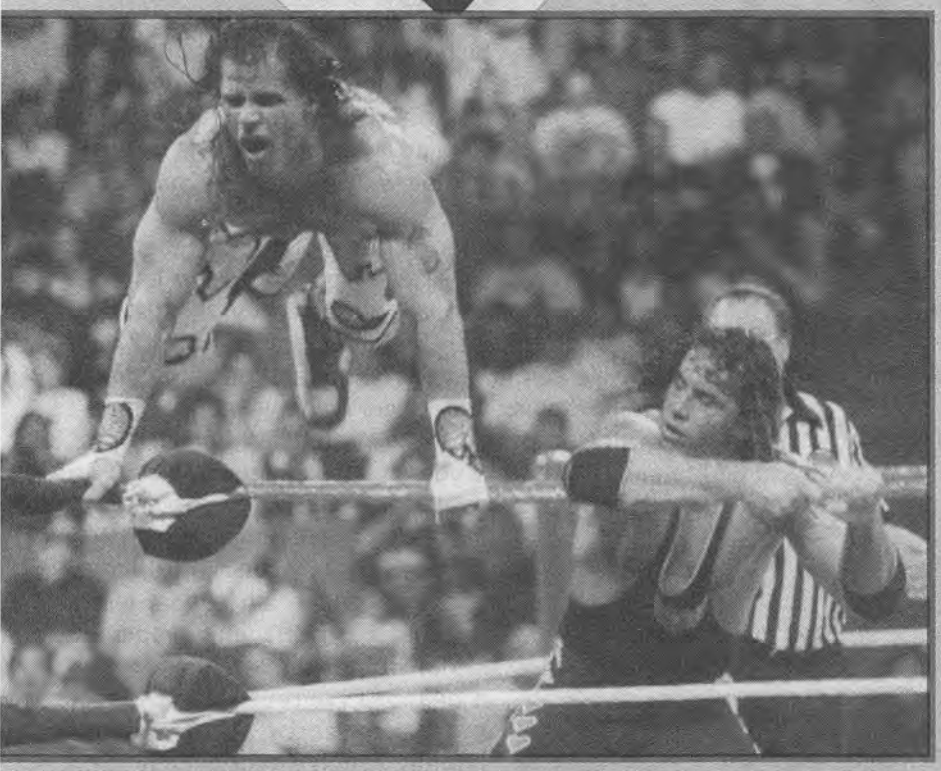
Ah, contentment. No more self-doubt. No risk of ever being tagged an underachiever. After all, only 18 men in the history of the world have ever been in a position where they could kiss the WWF title belt goodnight. Now, for the first time since Shawn Michaels entered a pro ring, he can go to sleep at night and dream a new dream. For now, at least, the belt is his. Forever, he has found his place in history.

But what will history tell us about Shawn Michaels? Will his name be listed among the federation greats? Think about it. Eighteen different men have been WWF World champion during the federation's 33-year history. But 22 of those 33 years have been dominated by Bruno Sammartino (11 years), Bob Backlund (six years), and Hulk Hogan (five years). Reaching that level, particularly in today's environment, would be practically impossible. Talent-wise, Michaels may well be as good or better than any of them, but the value of a career is not measured purely on talent. Michaels beat Bret Hart in the type of match that two of the three all-timers could not have won, and that says a lot about the man, but it doesn't tell us enough.

How will Michaels fare against Hart when "The Hitman" makes his inevitable return? He might train his butt off and once again prove himself the better man that night, but what happens three days after that? And five days after that? Two more challengers, two men whose dream is the same as Michaels' was for 12 years, two men who will do anything to be able to kiss the gold. Will he be able to get up for every match, month after month, year after year?



Shawn Michaels can smile and proudly hold that WWF World title belt knowing that he has done a great job as champion so far. It's too early, however, to tell if he deserves to be ranked with the all-time WWF greats.



Michaels beat a great opponent in a grueling match when he dethroned Bret Hart at WrestleMania XII. He'll need to beat some other greats if he wants to be compared favorably to men named Hogan, Backlund, and Sammartino.

"I'd like to make my mark on history," Michaels said. "I want the world to remember the name Shawn Michaels. Every person who makes his living performing in front of people wants those people to remember him."

It's those people who have made Shawn Michaels a fairly wealthy man at a relatively young age. The champion athlete of the '90s is in a position that athletes of previous eras were not: In just a short amount of time, he or she can make enough money to live a comfortable life without having to make the sacrifices a champion has to make. Michaels hungered for the title, but does he still?

The answer might be yes. I don't think even Shawn knows for sure. When Shawn no longer has that empty feeling in the pit of his stomach, he'll know it and you'll know it. A hungrier man will walk off with that shiny piece of hardware and Michaels' safe will be empty at night.

Does such a man exist right now in the WWF? Perhaps. Realistically, though, you can be starved for success and you're not going to get there unless you have the ability. Right now, very few wrestlers in the WWF can come close to matching Michaels in that category. That's good for him, but it's also bad. For Michaels to be remembered as one of the all-time greats, he will have had to beat several other greats or near-greats.

Sammartino, Backlund, and Hogan did. Ric Flair, Lou Thesz, and Strangler Lewis did. Michaels may yet, but his resume to date is far too short. Of course, Michaels has no control over whom the WWF chooses to bring in to challenge him, and it's doubtful he's going to jump to WCW anytime soon, so all he can do is wait.

He may have to wait forever. Look at Mike Tyson.

As overwhelming as he has been throughout most of his career, his place in history is a huge question mark. He has not been tested against a great opponent, and, in fact, when he was tested by Buster Douglas (who is far from great), he failed miserably. It wasn't just Muhammad Ali's skills that made him "The Greatest." He was good enough to beat Sonny Liston, Joe Frazier, Ken Norton, Jerry Quarry, Earnie Shavers, and George Foreman, but he was lucky to be active in an era that produced opponents of that caliber.

For his part, Shawn Michaels isn't overly concerned with how people in the year 2020 will view him. He'd like to be listed with the Sammartinos, Backlunds, and Hogans, but he's smart enough to know that some things are just out of his control. "All I can do is beat the man that's across the ring from me," he said. "It's up to someone else to write the history books." □

in focus

By Dave Lenker

RATING THE REFEREES?

I don't know about you, but I get a sick feeling in my stomach every time I watch Nick Patrick referee a WCW match. As I write this column, I cannot tell you that I have evidence that directly links Patrick to the New World Order, but someone with the proper authority in WCW should have had the guts to fire or suspend this man by now.

Patrick has made too many calls that have favored the NWO (and a few that have favored some WCW rulebreakers) in the last few months. He should not be officiating major matches in WCW anymore. No way.

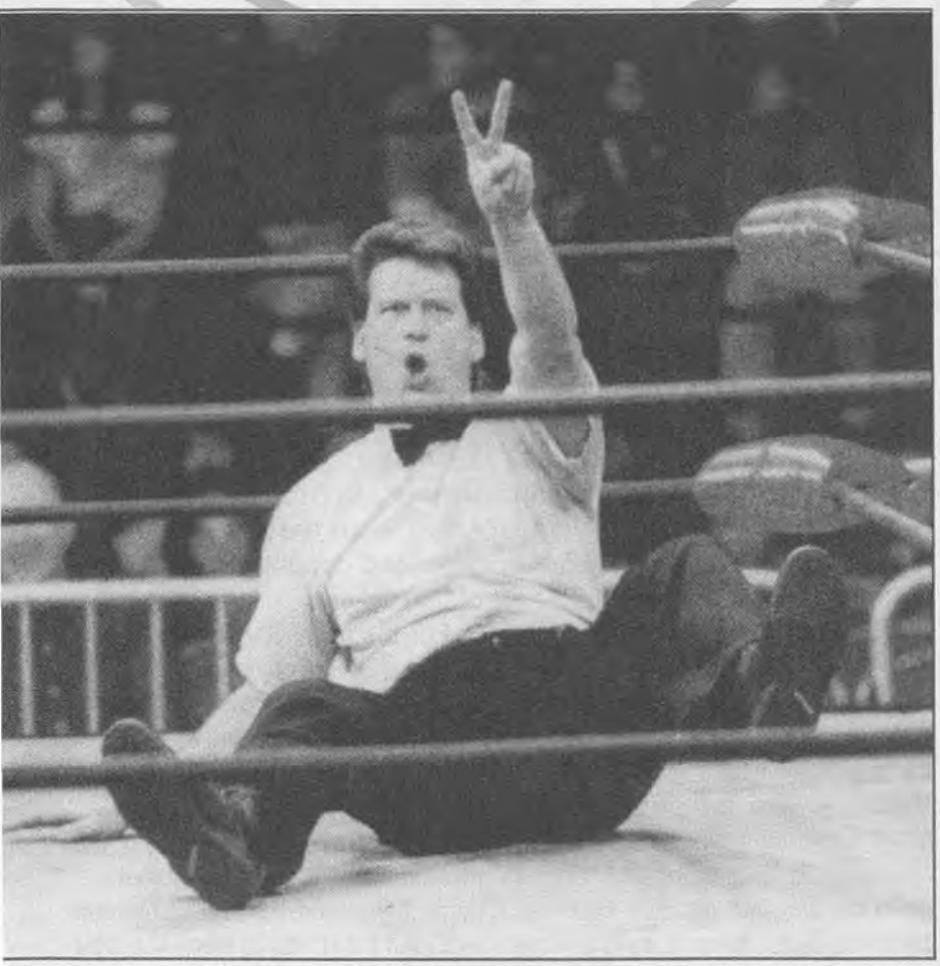
Patrick has decided a few months ago that from then on, he would call every match "to the letter of the law," meaning he will not give any wrestler any leeway. He won't use his judgment and say, "Well, technically, Lex Luger did bump into me in his match with Rick Steiner, but it wasn't intentional and didn't have any bearing on the match, so I'll let it go." Instead, it's, "Lex Luger made contact with me, so Lex Luger gets disqualified."

This isn't working, either.

Football referees could call holding penalties on almost every play, but they don't, and everybody is thankful for it. How many times in baseball have you seen a second baseman or shortstop not actually touch second base with his foot when turning a double play with a runner bearing down on him? The unofficial rule is that as long as the fielder is "in the neighborhood" of the base with his foot, it's okay. If hockey or basketball officials called every little infraction they saw, games would last five or six hours.

And you can be sure these officials would soon find themselves unemployed, because their supervisors wouldn't be pleased with their performances.

Nick Patrick isn't the only wrestling referee with whom I have a problem. Long-time USWA official Frank Morell spent most of the summer as part of Jeff Jarrett's entourage. Now, after apparently seeing the error of his ways, Morell is back to refereeing with the blessing of the USWA. Sorry, but if I'm a USWA wrestler, I don't want Morell officiating my match. I



Nick Patrick has come under fire in WCW recently for some controversial rulings in the ring. Dave Lenker suggests that *all* federations hire a supervisor of officials to help eliminate such problems.

With Ted DiBiase's money, the NWO could probably buy more superstars if it wanted to, but by adding more people, wouldn't the group be making itself susceptible to internal strife?

wouldn't trust him.

For years, Harvey Wippleman was a manager of rulebreakers in the USWA and WWF, but now he *officiates* in both promotions. It shouldn't happen. Mark Curtis led Smoky Mountain in its war with the USWA last summer and even wrestled a few matches for SMW. He was later welcomed back as an official and now has a job with WCW.

My suggestion: Each federation needs a supervisor of officials. Desperately. Each official should have his performance evaluated or rated by a competent supervisor on a regular basis. I think you could find plenty of retired officials who would be willing to take such jobs. If necessary, give those officials with high ratings bonuses.

The supervisors could also be in charge of the hiring of new officials.

Another suggestion: Do not give officiating jobs to men who are biased either toward or against wrestlers in the federation. For example, how can you be sure Morell will call a match involving, say, Tony Falk, objectively given that Morell was an ally of Falk in Jarrett's camp until the two of them had a falling-out? Morell admits he hates Falk.

"I think it's a good idea," said long-time NWA and WWF referee Dick Kroll, who retired several years ago. "I think wrestling is just like other sports in that the referees' egos are getting out of control. Years ago, officials used to be happy being in the background—I know I was—but now a lot of them like to be part of the show. It's a problem that needs to be corrected."

Real soon.

A WARNING TO THE NWO

As much as it pains me to say it, every week I become more convinced that WCW is in deep trouble in its war with the New World Order. Now that Sting has distanced himself from some of his old friends in WCW, the NWO looks stronger than ever.

Ric Flair, Arn Anderson, Chris Benoit, Steve McMichael, Randy Savage, Lex Luger, the Steiners, and everyone else vs. Hulk Hogan, The Giant, Kevin Nash, Scott Hall, Six (formerly The 1-2-3 Kid), the impostor Sting, and Ted DiBiase? Sorry, WCW, but the NWO looks more formidable to me. Heck, Hogan's the only man to have done serious damage to The Giant since he arrived in WCW, and now they're on the same side.

Having made this point, now I'll tell you why the NWO is in trouble:

It's getting *too* strong.

I'm serious. I don't care if this is a supergroup unlike any supergroup in wrestling history. It's getting too crowded. Let's look at a little NWO history. *Hmmmmmm*, Hogan has feuded with both The Giant and DiBiase in the past, Nash and Hall have both feuded with DiBiase, Nash and Hall have feuded with each other, Hall has feuded with Six, DiBiase has feuded with Six, and no one knows much about the impostor Sting's past.

No version of The Four Horsemen has gone much longer than a year before splitting apart. Other powerful cliques come and go all the time. If Hogan and company really think they can destroy WCW, I suggest they tone down their recruiting efforts. Less can be more. Add any more wrestlers and you're asking for more trouble down the road. This many superstars can't coexist forever, and right now, they're all too giddy about the trouble they've caused in WCW to realize it.

DiBiase tells me he has enough money to buy the services of a dozen more superstars for the NWO if he wants to. Seems to me he said the same thing when he was putting together his Million-Dollar Corporation in the WWF, and we all know how fast that group collapsed.

Sounds strange, but WCW wrestlers ought to be hoping that the NWO keeps expanding. It might be their best chance for survival. □

off the top rope

by Eddie Ellner

If you wish to contribute to Ellner's mailbag, send your letters to:

TOP ROPE
Box 1148
Ft. Washington, PA 19034

(Editor's note: The opinions expressed in this column are those of the letter writers and Eddie Ellner himself. They do not necessarily reflect the editorial views of this magazine.)

THE NEW WORLD ORDER has established itself as more than a renegade wrestling organization. It has shown us a whole new level of the classic rulebreaker turn. Case in point: The Giant recently joined the NWO. So on that fateful night, he turned rulebreaker and joined Hulk Hogan's group.

But wait—he already was a rulebreaker, right? Yes, but he did turn against Jimmy Hart, Kevin Sullivan, and the entire Dungeon of Doom. But wait—they are part of a rulebreaking organization. So The Giant turned into a different shade of rulebreaker. He betrayed all of WCW. No one trusts anyone in WCW, yet everyone insists on forming these unholy alliances. As I sit here on my lofty journalistic perch, I can't help but love it. Never has rulebreaking been so in-depth and elaborate. Now bad guys can morph into even more evil guys. There is now more opportunity than ever for someone who isn't courting fan favor. I'm giddy these days ... until I remember that I have to answer these letters.

Dear Eddie:

Professional wrestling is full of more evil than ever. There are so many rulebreaking referees and promoters out there now. What's next?

MIKE EDWARDS
Schenectady, NY

Dear Mike:

In one of our sister publications, *The Wrestler*, "No Holds Barred" columnist Steve Anderson mapped out a dream sequence involving an alleged rulebreaking ring attendant. Frankly, I found that very interesting. It's very chic right now to walk on the dark side. The masses cheer you. Go figure. The ancillary element (i.e. non-wrestlers) is just getting into the act. These people know that they will be easily forgiven. Just look at Earl Hebner, Danny Davis, and Teddy Long. They committed heinous acts and two out of the three, Hebner and Davis, returned to their officiating jobs soon thereafter. And Teddy Long is now considered a—*gulp*—role model.

Dear Mr. Ellner:

I am an English professor at a major university. Frankly, the outright abuse of the English language in professional wrestling circles alarms me. Where are these wrestlers learning to speak? Your columns leave a great deal to be desired as well. Perhaps an English 101 course would improve your syntax, grammar, and use of metaphor.

DR. DOYLE BUCKLEY
Seattle, WA

Dear Snob:

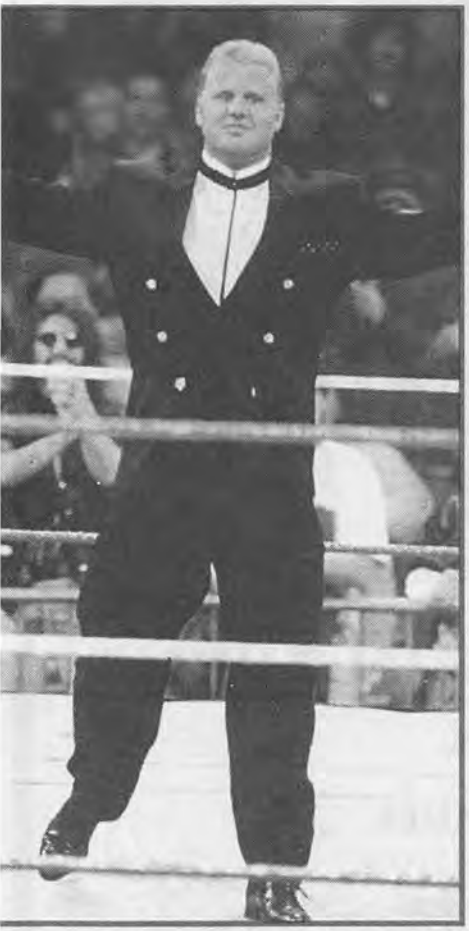
Perhaps it is time for you to go out in the world and get a real job. We already have a grammar chief of police in Mr. Bob Backlund. I'd like to see him put you in a cross-face chicken wing while you provide us all with a detailed analysis of *Hamlet*. I suggest that you approach The Giant and tell him that all too often, he ends his sentences with prepositions. I'm sure that he would gladly conjugate your face!

Let me get this straight: The Giant is a rulebreaker who almost became a fan favorite before turning into an even nastier rulebreaker as part of an anti-WCW rulebreaking clique. How can you not love this guy?

Dear Eddie:

When is "Mr. Perfect" going to return to the ring? I think Hunter Hearst Helmsley will go after him soon for stealing all his women.

TOBY WILSON
Hudson, WI



There's a reason why Curt Hennig calls himself "Mr. Perfect." If he's stealing Hunter Hearst Helmsley's women, he must have a perfect reason for doing it. Helmsley will realize that soon.

Dear Toby:

Toby? What are you, a character in a kid's reading book. "See Toby. Watch Toby write. See Toby sharpen his crayon." Do something about the name, buddy. As for your question, I think that "Perfect" and Helmsley would be much better off if they formed an alliance. "Perfect" proved to be a successful manager when he guided the WWF career of Ric Flair. And Helmsley is on anything but a roll right now. They need each other, and I think they know that. There may be more here than meets the eye. Stay tuned ...

Why don't I write more about ECW? Well, it's because I have to spend all of my time trying to decipher the chicken scratch you readers call handwriting. If everyone would just use a computer, maybe then I'd have time to write about a great ECW wrestler like Taz.

Dear Eddie:

Who do you think you are? I am so upset! All you do is rip on Sting, Lex Luger, Shawn Michaels, and all the other muscular babes in wrestling. Are you jealous? Were you the last kid picked for the baseball team when you were in school? I'm sure you were. You're just so sick.

CANDI ABERNATHY
Yorba Linda, CA

Dear Candi:

And I thought the "Valley Girl" era was over. Thank you so much for trying to usher it back in. I hate to even justify your rambling prose with a response, but here goes: No, I am not jealous of Sting and people of his ilk. In fact, they should be jealous of me. I don't walk around the wrestling world with rose-colored glasses (or rose-colored face paint). I do not live in a fantasy world in which I need to be a good guy to get people to like me. Thank you for your consideration and creativity in writing your letter with a mascara brush. Now skip on off to the mall. You're late for your peroxide support group meeting.

Dear Eddie:

Why don't you write more about ECW? I think that it is the top promotion today. The WWF and WCW can only wish to be like ECW or have their fans. I honestly think that they should have their own magazine or official columnist.

DAVID THOMPSON
Philadelphia, PA

Dear David:

All right, that does it. If I get one more piece of trash mail like this, I'm going to do the proverbial hurl. When are you people going to realize that I control one aspect of this magazine, this column? I write about ECW when I see fit. If you want to complain about that, save yourself a stamp. I don't care what you think. If you have complaints about any other pages in this magazine, write to Dave Lenker, the editor-in-chief. (Just don't use too many big words in your letter.) □

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MARC MERO:

He Needs To Be Badd Again!

As Johnny B. Badd, he was a dynamic, exciting two-time WCW TV champ. As Marc Mero, he has toned down his antics a little too much for his own good. The "Wildman" needs to get wild again

By Bryan Ethier

Wild: (adj.) Unrestrained; Turbulent; Crazy; Uncivilized.

THEY CALL HIM "Wildman." Yet during his first year with the WWF, Marc Mero has seemed at times rather relunctant to live up to his name.

Brash perhaps, but the mustached, cocoa-tanned superstar who wowed the ladies and stunned his WCW opponents with his daring aerial acrobatics hasn't been nearly as aggressive or flamboyant since joining the WWF. The same skills

Marc Mero has fared well against Hunter Hearst Helmsley in the WWF (right), but he did even better as Johnny B. Badd in WCW, when he was a bit more flamboyant, aggressive, and unrestrained (above).

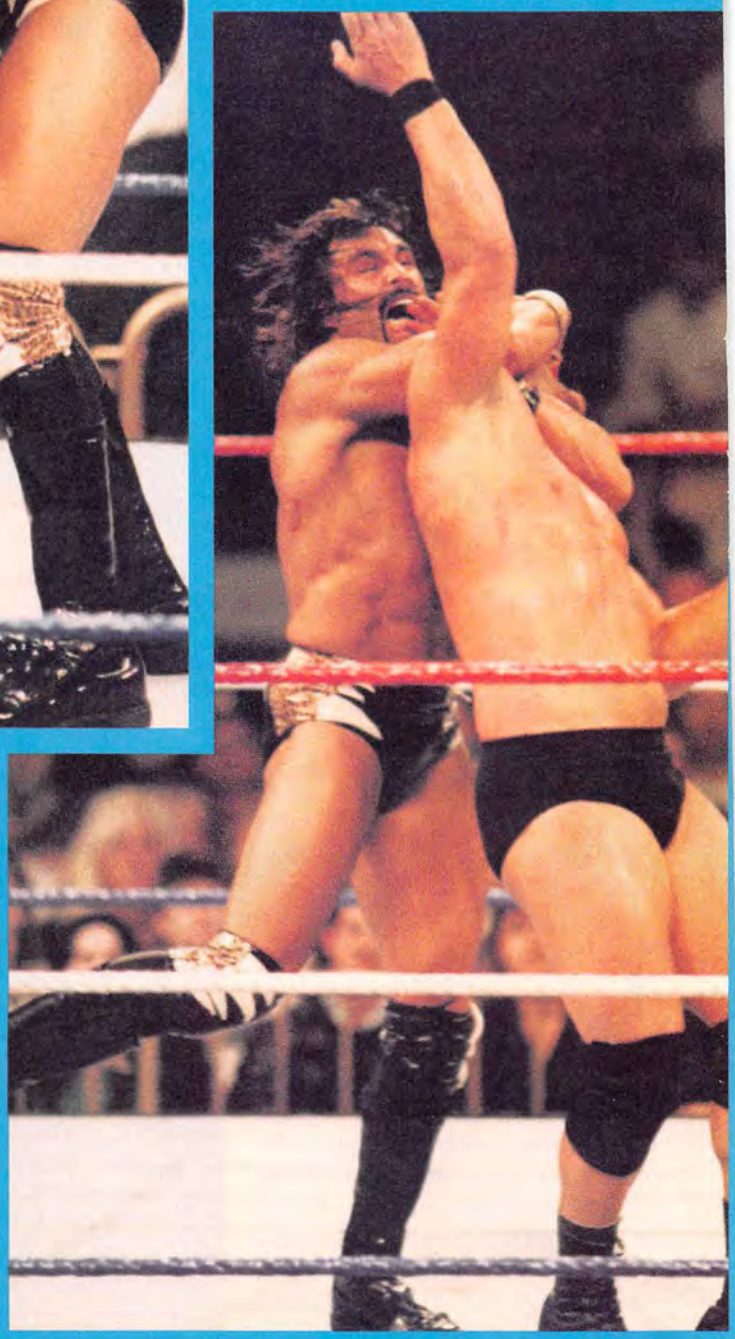
remain, but something just got lost in the name change.

He needs to find it.

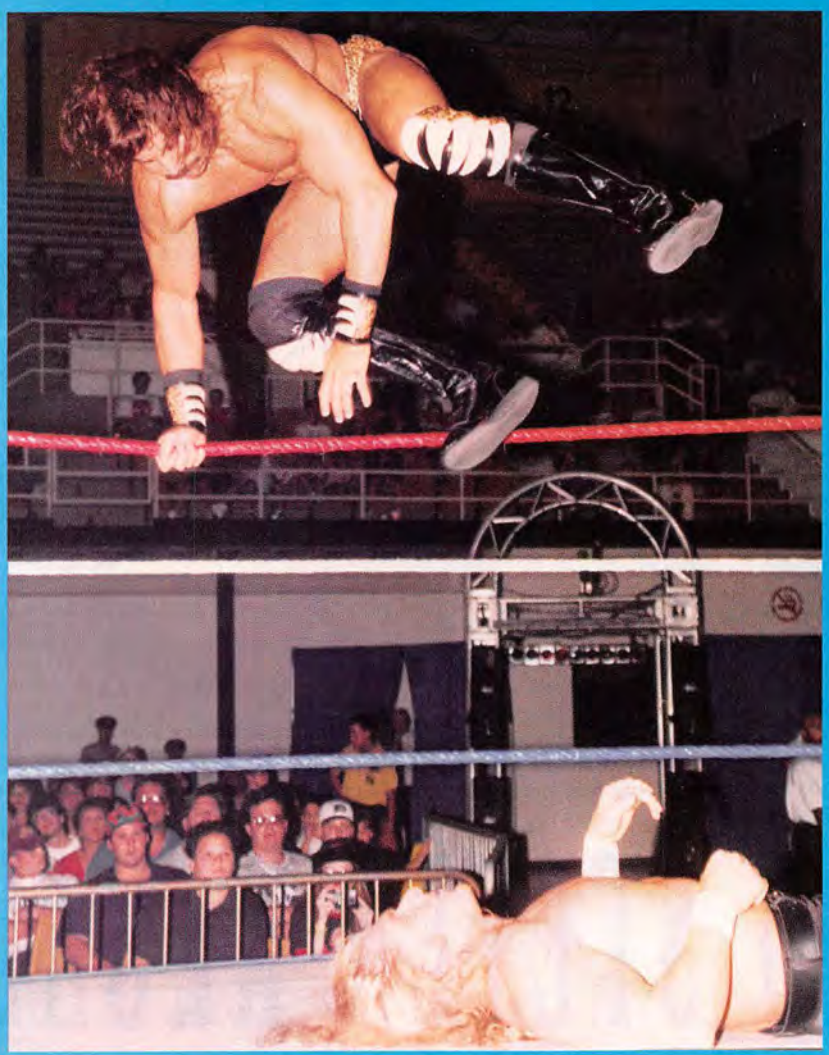
Mero went by the name Johnny B. Badd during his WCW days. A two-time former TV champion, he fought evil and stood beside the meek and mild, namely Kimberly. The 6′, 235-pound fan favorite also used his skills as an amateur boxer to wear down more plodding opponents.

Just the name was itself was bold and exciting.

And remember, he began his WCW as not only an energetic,



Mero went back to the basics in many matches against Steve Austin this summer, preferring to subdue "Stone-Cold" with sleeperholds (right) and hammerlocks (above) rather than his usual acrobatics. He rarely did that when he was Badd.



When Mero has used his some of his more creative moves in the WWF, some have accused him of trying to emulate Shawn Michaels. He'd be better off trying to think of ways to beat Michaels.

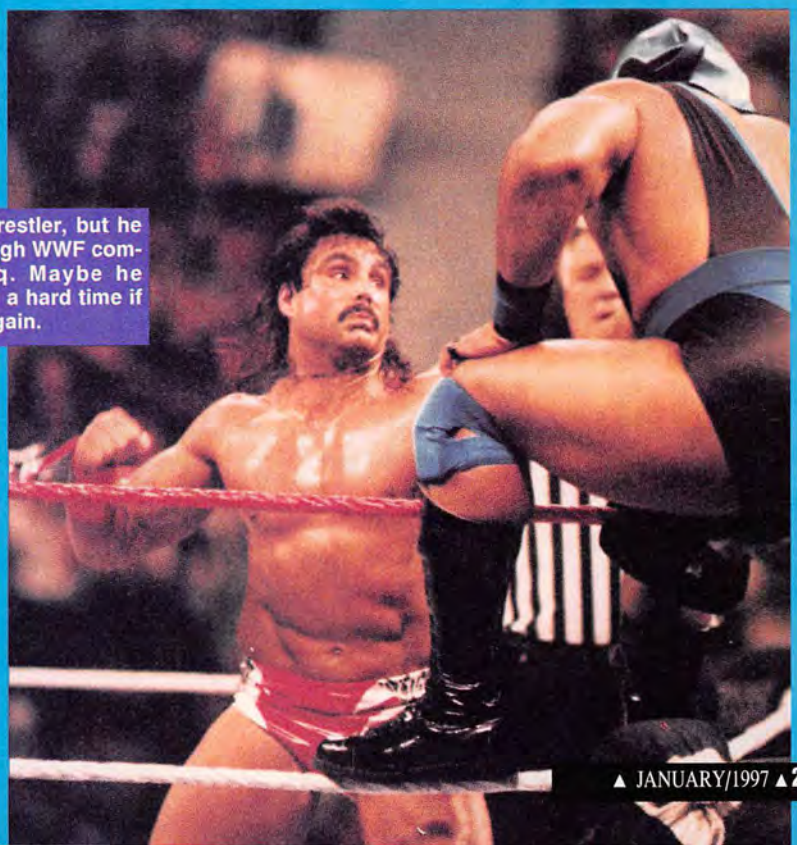
enthusiastic, and flamboyant star, but as an energetic, enthusiastic, and flamboyant *rulebreaker*.

His top-rope sunset flip? His favorite move, and typical of the dash and daring he brought into the ring. He feared no one and never cowered from pain or injury. Most important, he did whatever it took to win.

He arrived in the WWF at WrestleMania XII. His first notable act was humiliating Hunter Hearst Helmsley by stealing HHH's voluptuous valet, Sable, whom Hunter was treating badly.

A noble act for sure, but not the kind of act that made him a star in the first place.

(Continued on page 56)



Marc Mero is a great wrestler, but he ran into trouble with tough WWF competitors like Faarooq. Maybe he wouldn't have had such a hard time if he was a "Badd" man again.

press conference...

Lord Steven Regal uses a side headlock to keep Dean Malenko at bay during a match this summer. Now that he's WCW TV champ, Regal may soon have to defend his belt against Malenko, a man against whom he has struggled.

LORD STEVEN REGAL

LORD STEVEN REGAL may not be the most dangerous man in professional wrestling, but he is certainly one of the most arrogant. Maybe ***the*** *most arrogant. And since August 20, 1996, he has been one of the most watched.*

On that day, Regal captured the WCW TV title from Lex Luger. But he didn't do so on his own talents; he had some timely assistance from Kevin Nash and Scott Hall of the New World Order. The rumors quickly began: Was Regal about to join the NWO? Was he already a member?

Regal normally is not such a man of mystery. He has always been very straightforward in his contention that he is descended from English royalty. Often he claims that he himself is royalty. As dubious as those claims are, few would deny he is a flat-out great all-around wrestler.

Almost two years ago, Regal pulled a shocker and announced that Bobby Eaton would henceforth be known as Earl Robert Eaton, his partner and confidant. These Blue Bloods proved to be an outstanding team, further strengthening themselves with the addition of Squire David Taylor.

The good times were not to last, though. This summer, Taylor and Eaton had a falling-out, and they've been feuding around the WCW circuit ever since. Regal has taken Taylor's side.

That feud, however, has taken a backseat to questions about Regal's loyalty, specifically his loyalty to the federation he has for years called his wrestling home. ***PWI*** *sent Senior Writers Dave Rosenbaum, Andy Rodriguez, and Steve Anderson to ask Regal whether his self-made empire in America had a new address.*

DAVE ROSENBAUM: I guess our most important question, Lord Regal, is this: Are you a member of the NWO?

LORD STEVEN REGAL: Absolutely not.

ANDY RODRIGUEZ: That's it? You're not?

REGAL: What else would you like me to say, Mr. Rodriguez? I have absolutely no affiliation with this so-called New World Order. It's an organization of hooligans.

STEVE ANDERSON: Then why did Scott Hall and Kevin Nash help you win the TV belt from Lex Luger?

"I am less a member of WCW than I am a man who chooses his own path. I am not beholden to WCW, the NWO, nor any other group. I compete for my own honor and glory."

REGAL: Perhaps you should ask them that yourself. I suspect it had something to do with the manner in which they despise Luger. I can't say I blame them for that.

ROSENBAUM: So that was their only motive, making Luger look bad?

REGAL: I suppose it was, Mr. Rosenbaum. I don't care to busy myself with the affairs of my colleagues, and I ask the same consideration of them.

RODRIGUEZ: I believe you, Lord Regal. You don't allow others to get involved in your business. So why did Hall and Nash think they could interfere in your match?

REGAL: You seem to be implying that I would have given them permission. Of course I wouldn't have. When I'm wrestling—and especially when I'm competing for a championship—I need to have complete control of the situation. Conversely, Nash and Hall are headstrong fellows, as they have proven repeatedly over the past several months. I would not have expected them to ask permission for their interference. There are some factors even someone of my abilities cannot control.

ANDERSON: You have to admit, though, they did you a great service.

REGAL: Nonsense. That is preposterous. I was well on my way to capturing the championship.

ROSENBAUM: With all respect, Lord Regal, that's not what we saw. Luger looked to be completely in control before they rammed him into the post outside the ring, then rolled him back inside.

REGAL: Respect? Obviously with that talk, you show no respect. It may have looked to you that Luger had the advantage, but you were deceived. All that matters now, of course, is that I am the WCW TV champion, and Luger is not.

RODRIGUEZ: You're a champion, but not a member of the NWO, or so you claim. Have Hall, Nash, Hulk Hogan, or anyone else ever asked you to join the organization?

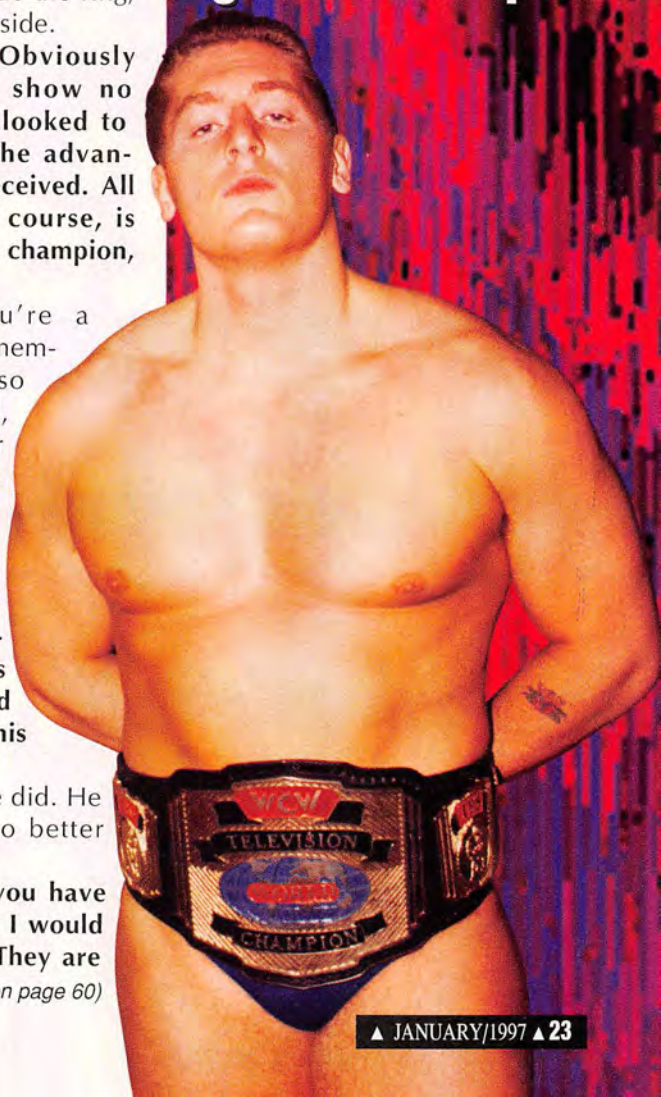
REGAL: Absolutely not, and if you don't care to believe me, listen to Nash. He has denied that I have had any involvement with his NWO.

ANDERSON: He sure did. He also said, "We can do better than Regal."

REGAL: And there you have a very fine reason why I would never join the NWO. They are

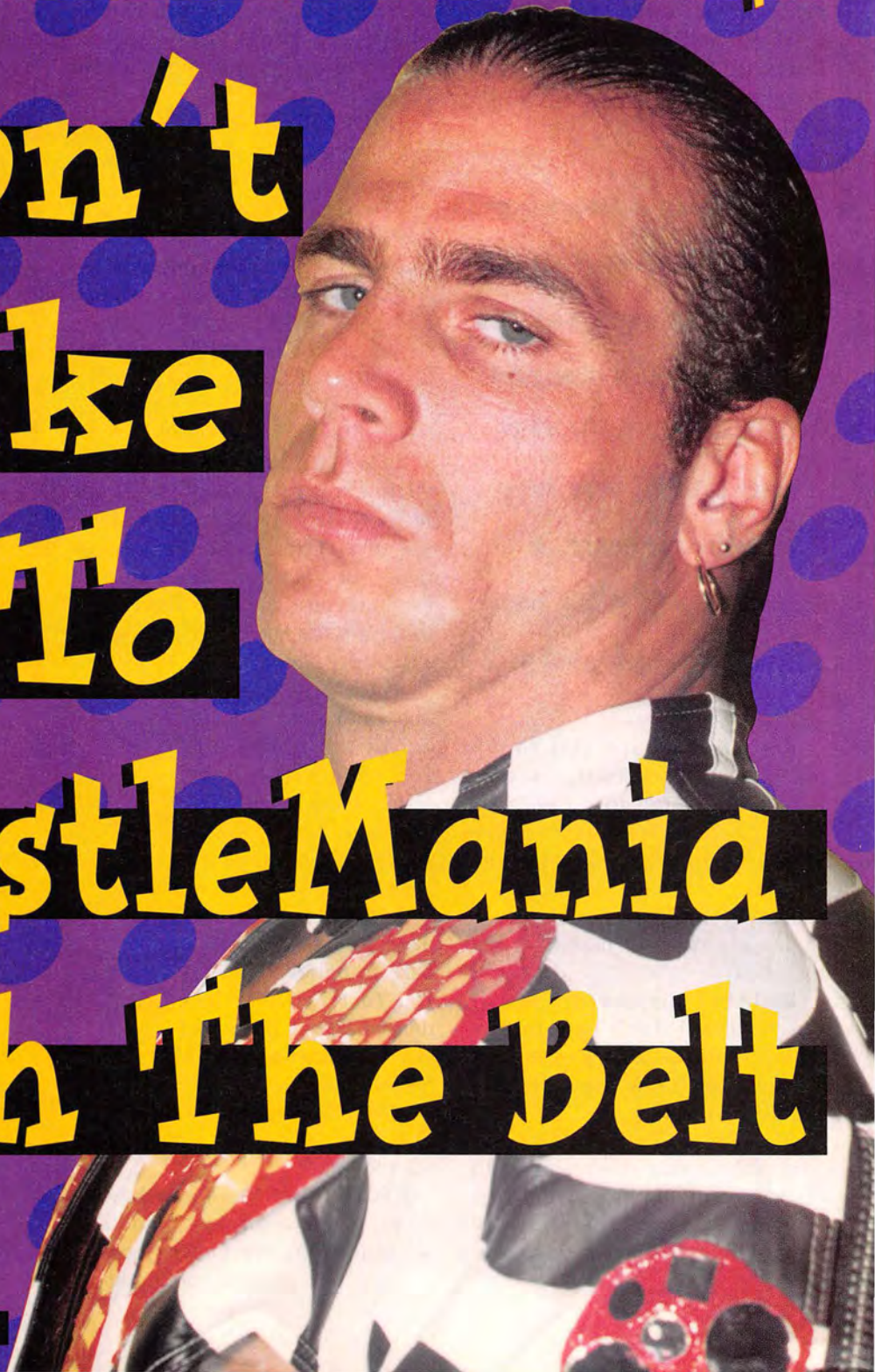
(Continued on page 60)

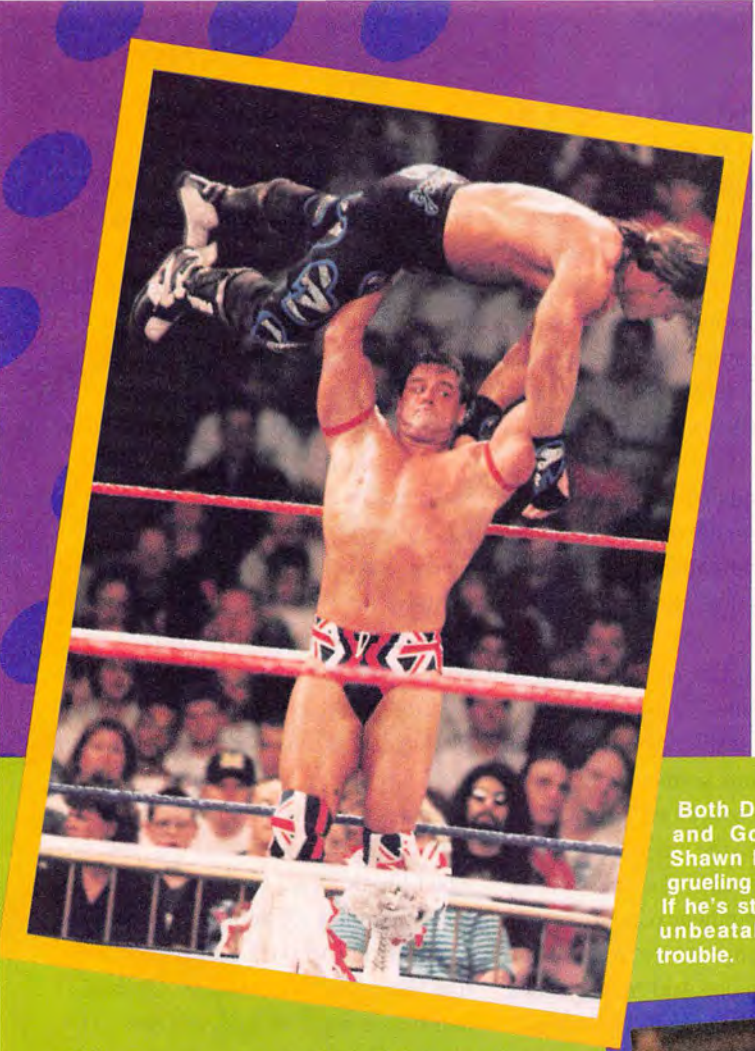
Every issue, reporters from PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED will participate in an incisive press conference with a top wrestling star. The questions will be demanding. And the answers will reveal the innermost thoughts of the giants of the sport.



THE EXPERTS AGREE:

Shawn Michaels Won't Make It To WrestleMania With The Belt





By Bryan Ethier

SEXY … EXCITING … SPECTACULAR … athletic … flamboyant … courageous. Choose your adjective to describe Shawn Michaels.

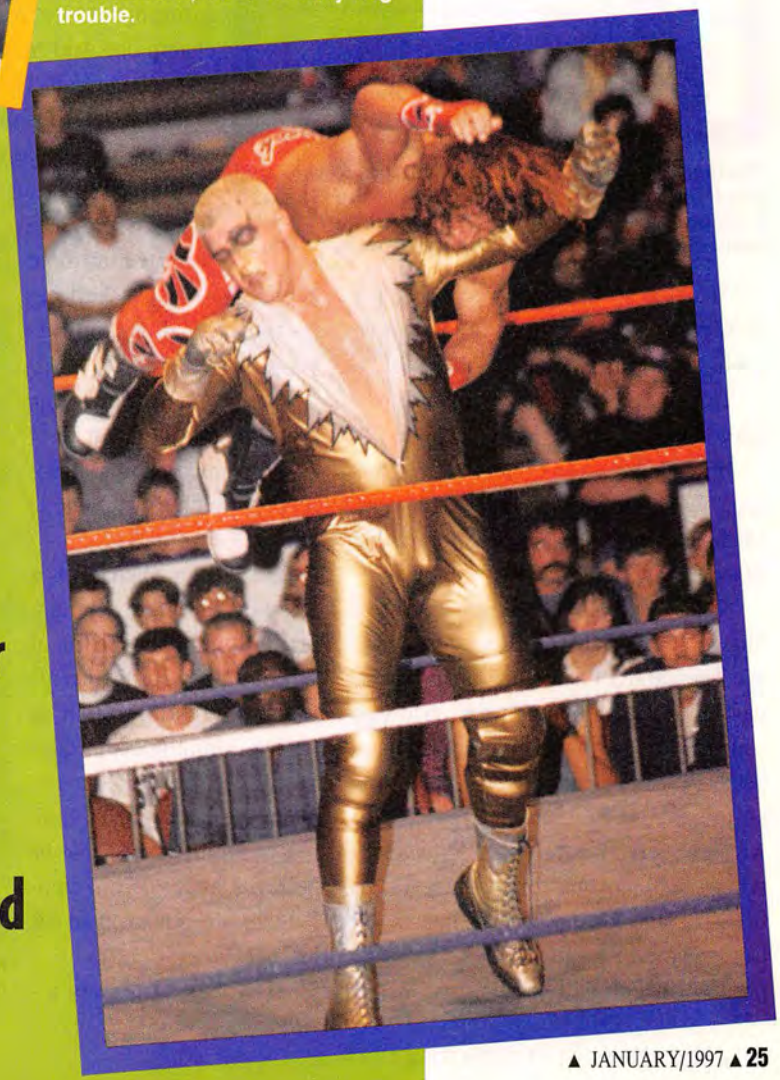
The male model stands proudly upon his catwalk, the squared circle. He is topless, clad in nothing more than his usual business attire—wrestling tights. A camera slowly moves around him, displaying his gymnast-like physique. His face bears no expression; at this moment, he resembles one of those $5,000-per-day glamour models.

He is a wrestler by trade, a champion by victory, an ambassador by job description. But lately he seems to have adopted a new role: legitimate "Boy Toy." That's because at this moment, millions of wrestling fans are watching his lavishly overblown promotional advertisement on an episode of *WWF Monday Night Raw*.

Sexy … flamboyant … athletic … Shawn Michaels.

Is this a wrestling show, or an infomercial selling a new get-athletic-quick product?

Both Davey Boy Smith (left) and Goldust (below) wore Shawn Michaels out in some grueling matches this summer. If he's starting to feel like he's unbeatable, he's in very big trouble.



Too many challengers. Too many outside distractions. Too many roles to play. Bret Hart waiting in the wings. Shawn Michaels is wearing down fast under the pressure, and it's looking like his days as WWF champ are numbered

Physically, Shawn seems to be holding up very well after battles with strongmen like the "British Bulldog." Mentally, though, it's a different story. Michaels doesn't seem as focused as he once was.

Actually, it's another aspect of the job of WWF World champ … at least when the holder of the gold belt is Michaels.

This is Shawn Michaels' new life—male model.

He *is* his own commercial. He has been featured in *Playgirl*. What's next, Michaels premiering a new show entitled *More Playgirl After Dark*?

"There's no question in my mind that Shawn Michaels has become larger than life," remarked one WWF official who wished to remain anonymous. "He was supposed to be the company's spokesperson, its ambassador overseas. He was supposed to be our vanguard into wrestling-starved countries such as South Africa and Germany. Michaels seems to have become lost in his own image. He has become distracted from his primary purpose, which is defending the WWF title. That better change if he expects to remain champion much longer."

Michael Jordan smiles through his endorsements. Wayne Gretzky considers it just another aspect of his job. Even camera-shy personalities such as tennis champ Michael Chang have been able to balance their jobs with the demands of fame. Michaels seems to not only welcome the perks attendant to superstardom—he seems to crave them.

"He has always been an entertainer," explained another WWF insider. "Remember his interview segment called 'The Heartbreak Hotel'? He seemed to relish the limelight. But let's not get carried away with the entertainment part of his job. Remember, he is a proud champion. And he has faced, and will face, all challengers."

Glamour life aside, Michaels' performance in the ring has been a bit shaky of late. In fact, he has been far more aggressive outside the ring, particularly during interviews.

During a recent *Raw*, he promised to shut down all of Camp Cornette, in particular its proprietor, Jim Cornette himself.

But Shawn Michaels is a wrestler, not a bounty hunter. He has spent a lot of time lately issuing threats toward wrestlers such as Vader, Mankind, and Goldust. You almost get the feeling that he believes himself to be invincible, that he believes many of his challengers are not even in his league.

Why has Michaels allowed himself to be distracted by the limelight and by hollow threats from underhanded managers such as Cornette? Simple. The bright lights have become too bright.

"I think he's feeling the pressure that goes with being the number-one guy in the WWF," said Marty Jannetty, his former tag team partner. "Shawn has always looked out first for Shawn. Now he's got all these fans and the WWF management depending on him. Shawn has to worry about his health, his next match, his title, overseas bookings, the image of the WWF, his image. He won't hold on to the belt much longer. I can't see him making it to WrestleMania with it. You might say I'm biased against Shawn, but I really believe he's in trouble."

In a sense, Michaels is like the freshman college student who has just finished his first two final exams. He has three more left … but does he have the wherewithal to pass them? Michaels, like that burned-out student, has battled and beaten top foes such as Davey Boy Smith, Goldust, Vader, Steve Austin, and Owen Hart. Distracted, he may be, but a loser he is not.

Goldust's bizarre mind games haven't worked against "The Heartbreak Kid" at all. What is getting to him is his obsession with his "Sexy Boy" image. He has too many outside distractions to worry about these days.

Smith is just one member of Camp Cornette that Michaels has had to deal with since winning the WWF title. He'd be better off if he abandoned his goal of destroying Jim Cornette's entire stable.

Michaels hasn't seen Bret Hart since WrestleMania XII, the event at which he won his first WWF championship. In the back of his mind, he has to know that Bret will soon challenge him again. That could worry him.

The problem he might soon face is keeping his focus on the match before him, the opponent sneering at him. Whether he can is doubtful, at least as long as an unseen foe remains lurking in the background.

The foe is Bret Hart, the former WWF champ whom Michaels beat for the crown. He's one of the most beloved wrestlers in the history of the WWF. Unlike Michaels, the "Excellence Of Execution" concerned himself most with execution, not image. He did his job first, then he stood and addressed his audience. He never wavered from his purpose as ambassador and champion.

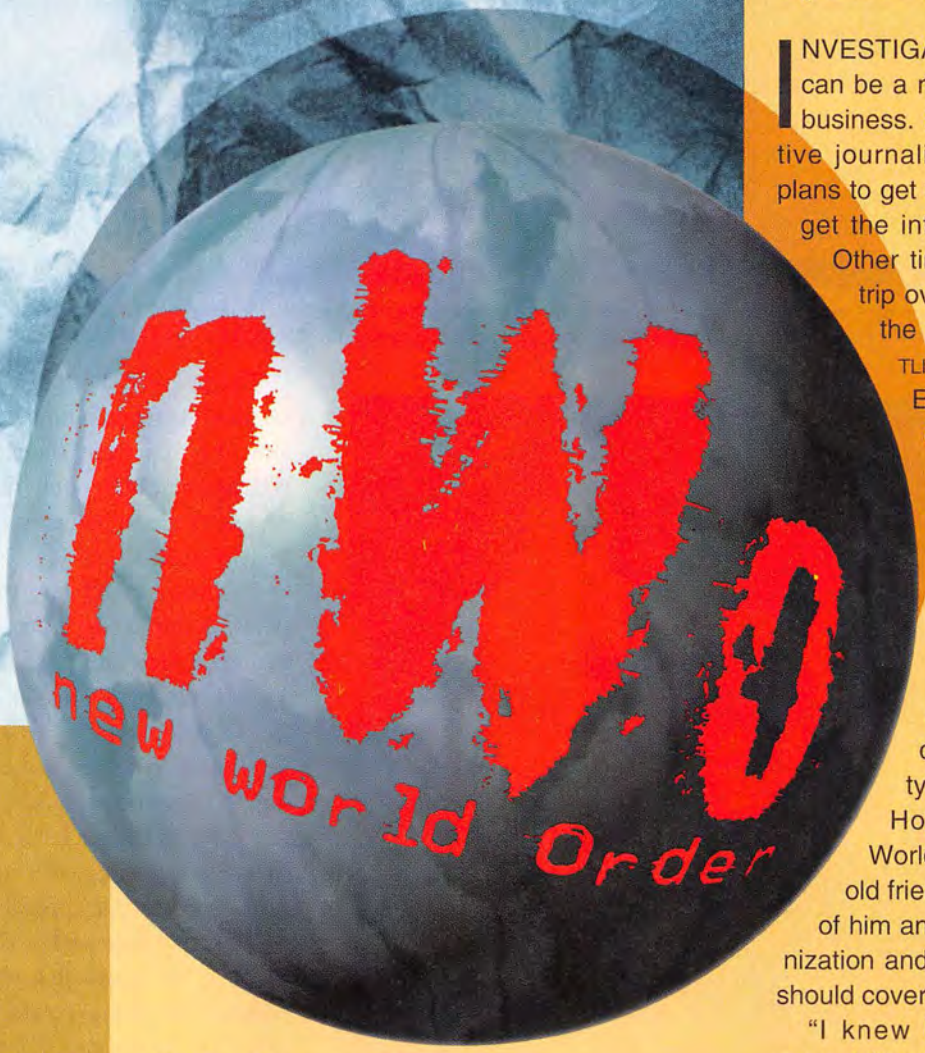
Hart has taken a leave of absence to pursue a TV career and other personal interests, but he is expected to rejoin the WWF by year's end. If and when he does, his ultimate goal will be to win the WWF title. The eddy of speculation surrounding Hart's possible return to the ring has done nothing to help Michaels retain his focus.

There are the distractions of the camera, of the belt, the glamour, the material world. And then there is Bret Hart, lurking in Michaels' shrinking shadow.

It's only a matter of time before "The Hitman" gets to him … unless someone else gets to him first.

THE NWO

We Have Their Confidential



Shortly after their formation, the New World Order wasted no time contacting PWI looking for publicity. When Senior Editor Bill Apter went to the home of Hulk Hogan, he provided the renegade organization with it. Apter also got something in return

By Steve Anderson

INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM can be a risky and controversial business. Sometimes investigative journalists need calculated plans to get to the right sources to get the information they need. Other times, they will literally trip over a scoop. That was the case with PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED Senior Editor Bill Apter, our own Geraldo Rivera.

Rivera had Al Capone's vault. Apter had the home of Hulk Hogan. But unlike Rivera, who found nothing of significance in Capone's vault, Apter did not come up emptyhanded. Shortly after Hogan joined the New World Order, he invited his old friend Bill to take pictures of him and to discuss his organization and how he thought *PWI* should cover it.

"I knew Hogan's intentions were dubious," recalled Apter. "He wanted fluff stories promoting the NWO and how great it was. We needed the pictures, but as far as printing pro-NWO stories in all our magazines, I told him we couldn't do it."

"At one point during my visit, I excused myself to make a phone call," continued Apter. "I was walking across his kitchen floor when I slipped on a small notebook sticking out from under a table. I

IN '97

Dream Roster

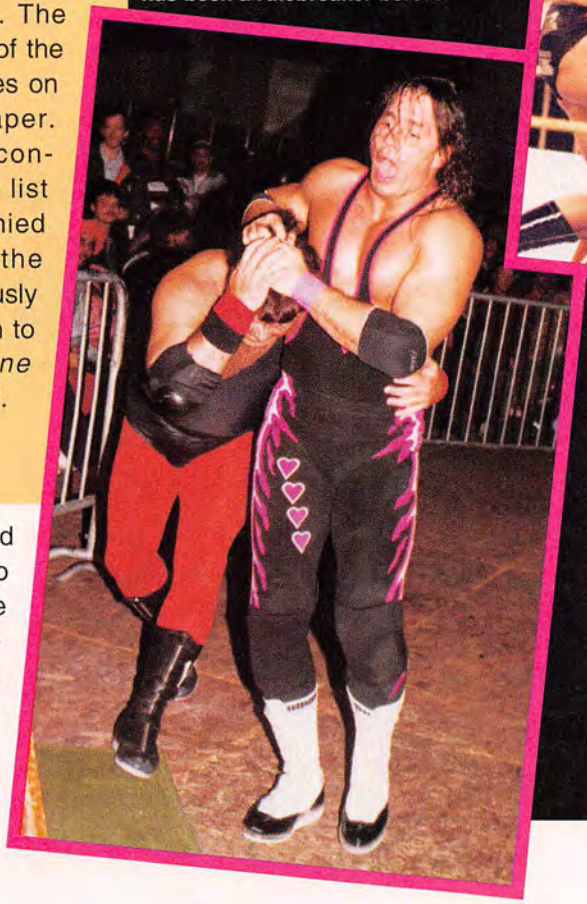
picked it up so no one else would get hurt."

But that was no ordinary notebook. It contained information that apparently reveals the strategies of the renegade organization. On page one was what appeared to be the NWO's dream roster, a list of wrestlers whom the group hoped to recruit in the coming months.

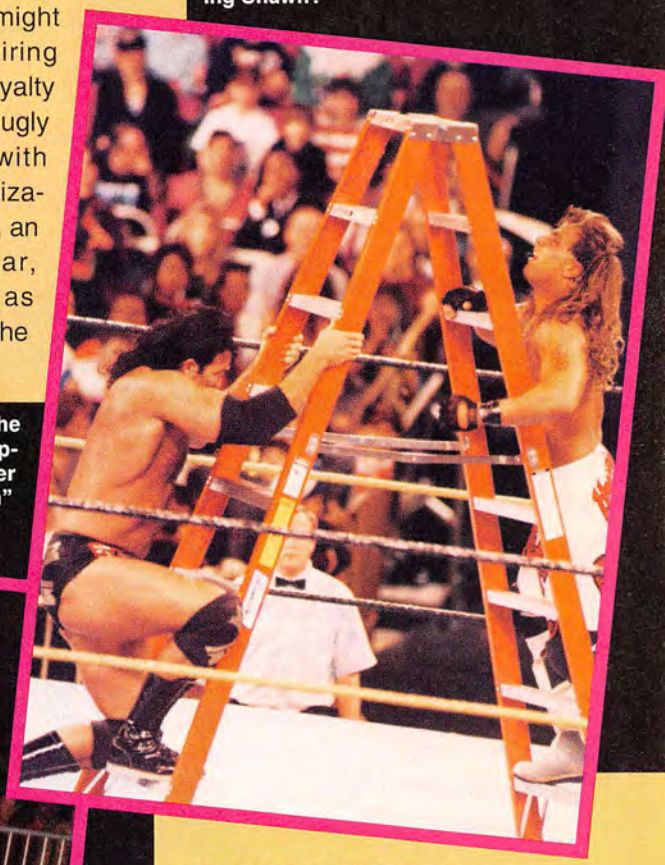
So the safety-conscious Apter tucked the notebook in his coat pocket. Lo and behold, it showed up at our editorial offices. On the top of the first page of the notebook were the names "Giant" and "Ted DiBiase," two men who recently joined the NWO. The following is a list of the seven other names on that sheet of paper. Though when confronted with the list later, Hogan denied that he wrote the names, we obviously have good reason to believe *someone* from the NWO did.

BRET HART

Hart's name had many stars next to it, along with the word "coup" underlined several times. Bret's name also had "$2-million" written below it, perhaps indicating what the NWO thought was the amount of money it would take to get Bret interested. Two good reasons why the NWO might have problems acquiring Bret's services: his loyalty to the WWF, and his ugly past relationship with Nash. Still, the organization must feel that Hart, an established superstar, would make almost as much of an impact as the "Hulkster" did.



Most expect Bret Hart to return to the WWF by year's end, but what happens if the NWO makes him an offer he can't refuse? Hey, "The Hitman" has been a rulebreaker before.



Scott Hall (then Razor Ramon) and Shawn Michaels couldn't decide whether they were friends or enemies when they were in the WWF together. Who could blame the NWO for coveting Shawn?

SHAWN MICHAELS

This would seem to be Nash's idea. Rumor has it that these two patched up their differences prior to Nash's leaving the WWF. The "roster" notes that he would be able to contend for all WCW titles, including the cruiserweight belt. Could he pull a Madusa and show up on *Nitro* with the WWF belt? Unlikely, but when the NWO is involved, almost anything is possible.

Sabu was never particularly happy during his few months in WCW and would probably be willing to entertain offers from the NWO. Getting a madman like him in the fold would be a huge coup.

SABU

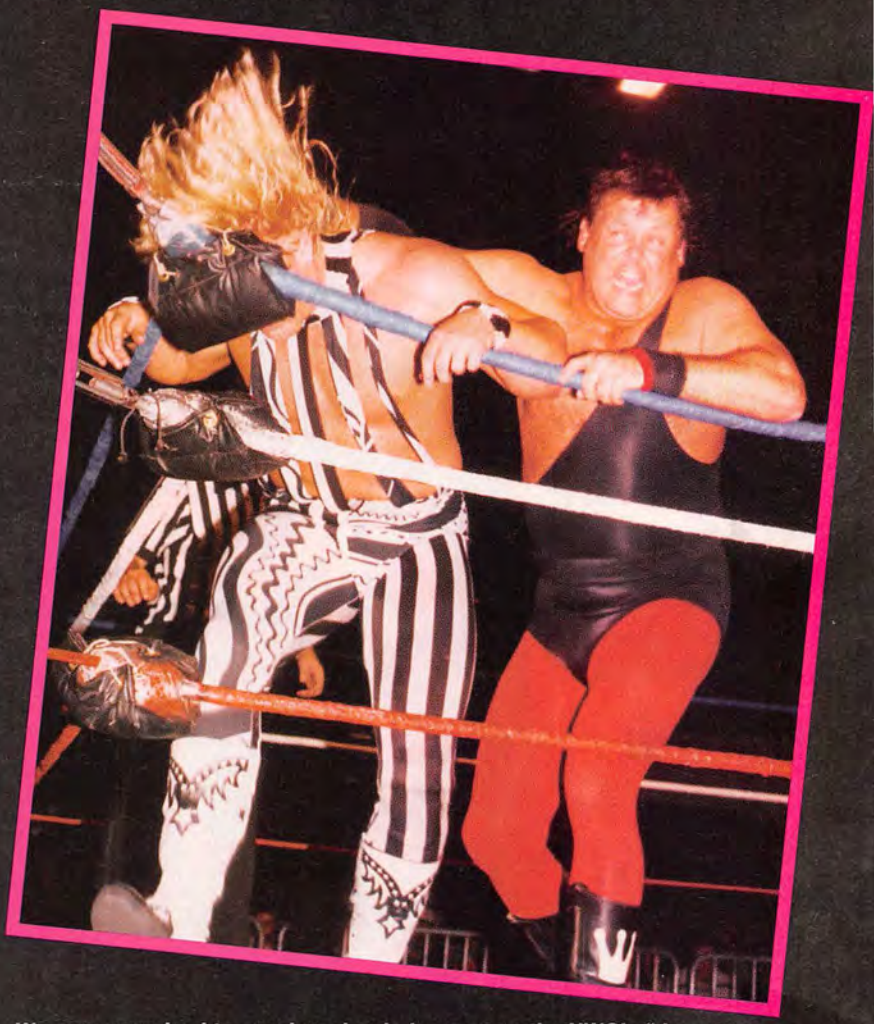
Notes on Sabu concentrate on his unhappy departure from WCW last year. It is well-known that Sabu was not happy with his time in the organization, and that his out-of-control style and personality made promoters uncomfortable. Knowing how much the NWO loves chaos, you'd think Sabu would be a natural fit. As the hottest independent star in the world today, he is coveted by many promotions. The NWO probably has the money to get him.

JERRY LAWLER

Lawler isn't particularly strong, and his technical skills aren't that impressive anymore, but the "dream roster" makes note of his ability to "get under the skin" of the powers-that-be in the WWF. Ergo, he could do that in WCW. And that is exactly what the NWO wants. Lawler's other major strong point is his ties to the USWA, another possible pipeline of young talent for the NWO. He also had a good relationship with Ted DiBiase in the WWF.

STING

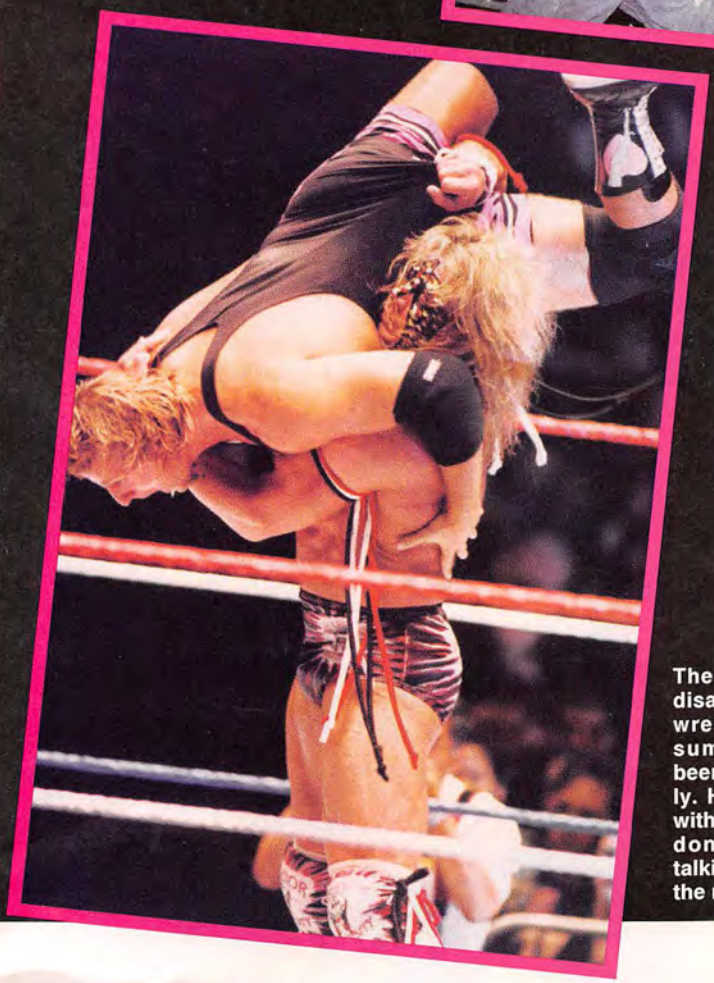
The NWO came up with an impostor Sting, but you can be sure that it still covets the real deal. Despite his announcement that he is now a "free agent," Sting is still *WCW's* franchise. Don't be surprised if the organization continues to pursue him and even gets him. He is very upset with his friends in WCW and probably could be had for the right amount of money. If the NWO does get him, WCW is in deep trouble.



We were surprised to see Jerry Lawler's name on the NWO's "dream roster." But when you think about how much Lawler enjoys irritating people, well, maybe he'd fit in well.

The NWO developed its own "Sting," but logic tells you it would prefer the original. The "Stinger" is very unhappy right now and might be willing to join if he got the right offer.

Here's the real shocker: ECW heavyweight champ Raven was on the NWO's "dream roster." Why not? He doesn't care for authority and loves to beat people up.



The Ultimate Warrior disappeared from the wrestling scene this summer and hasn't been heard from lately. He has negotiated with WCW in the past; don't rule out him talking to the NWO in the near future.

RAVEN

The NWO refers to him as a "dark horse" choice, and we at *PWI* were surprised to see his name on the list of seven. But the NWO probably likes him because he has been such a hellraiser in ECW since the day he entered that promotion. He likely still harbors some ill-toward WCW, where he once wrestled as Scotty Flamingo, and the WWF, where he wrestled and managed as Johnny Polo. He's an outlaw and a renegade, and that's the kind of person the NWO likes.

THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR

Although missing in action for the last few months, the Warrior probably hasn't wrestled his last match. He has negotiated with WCW in the past, but talks broke down each time when WCW wouldn't give in to some of his demands. The NWO, from what we can tell, is ready to make a lucrative offer to the Warrior, the man who cleanly pinned Hogan for the WWF belt at WrestleMania VI.

* * *

No matter what action the NWO takes, we must point out that Bill Apter gained this list through legitimate means. He was invited to the home of Hulk Hogan to take pictures and gather information. That's what he did. The NWO wants publicity, and that's just what it's getting.

Its members just need to start picking up after themselves better.

THIS STORY IS

An Insider's View Of A Tag Team Tragedy

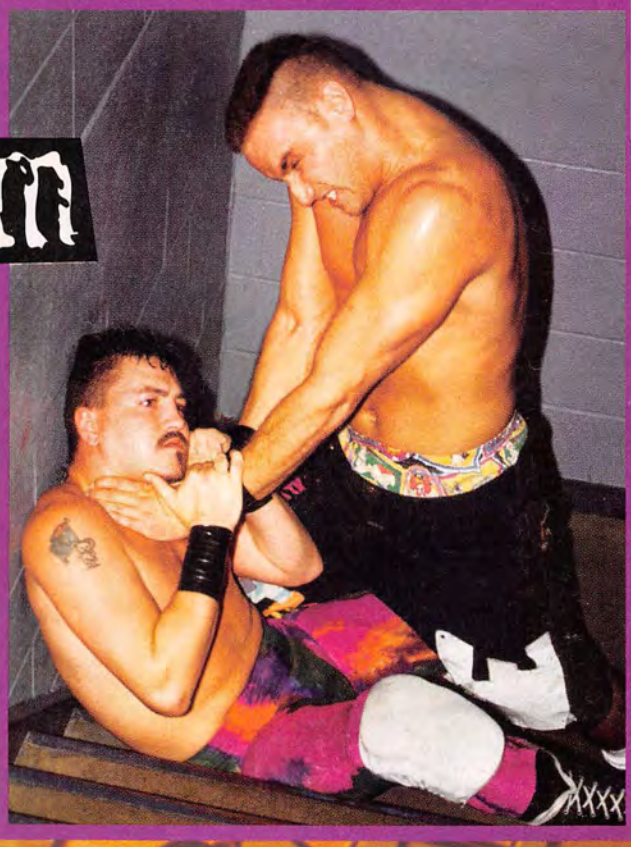
The story of PG-13 is both a tale of success and one of tragedy. So who better to tell about the best of times and worst of times than a man who has seen it all: USWA matchmaker Randy Hales

By Randy Hales

IF YOU WOULD have told me when PG-13 was formed back in 1992 that four years later, I would be asked to write a story for PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED that would give the fans an insider's view of Wolfie D and J.C. Ice (now Jamie Dundee), I wouldn't have believed it would be under these circumstances.

I would have figured it to be a story about the sport's hottest tag team, not a story about the "death" of a great duo. But the events of the last few months in the USWA have led me to this, and it's painful for me to even write about.

It's hard to believe that all

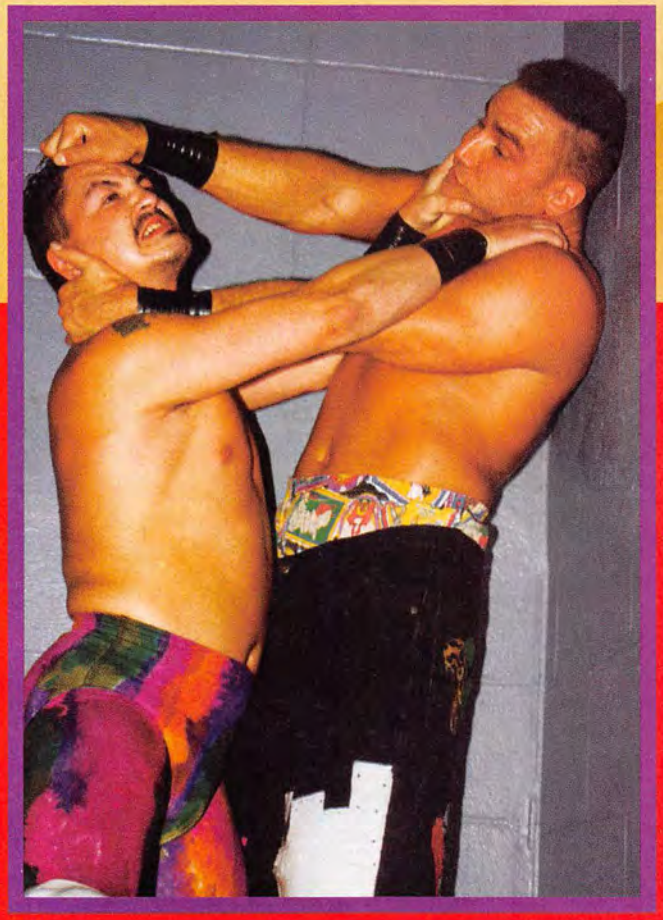


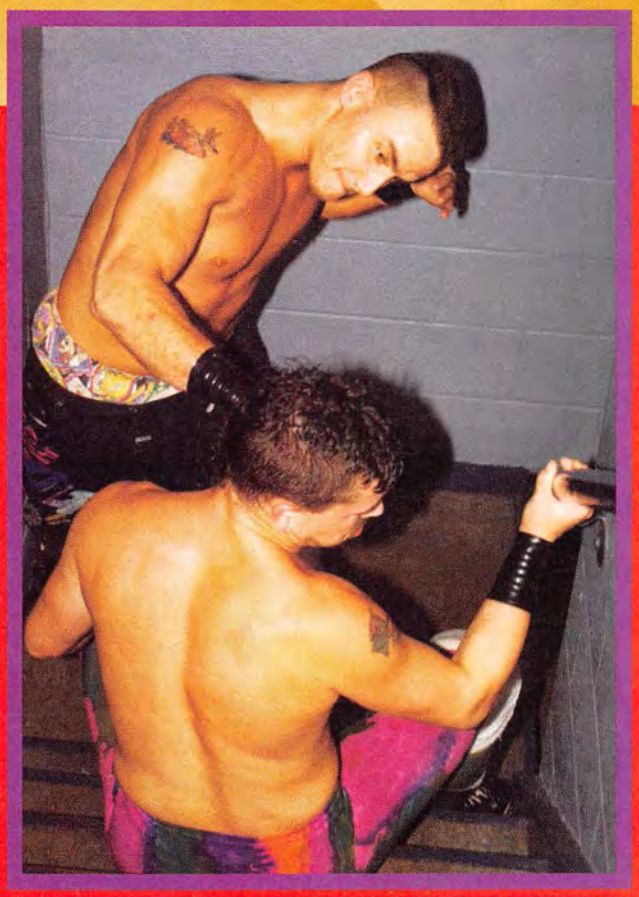
RATED PG-13

this time has passed since the fateful day I suggested that Wolfie and Jamie team. They had a similar look and used a similar style, so I told them they ought to give it a try. After their debut match together, though, I had mixed feelings. I was still sickened by Jamie's recent turn against his father, Bill, but I was impressed by how well he and Wolfie worked with each other. It was like they had been teaming for 10 years. Maybe a declaration of independence from his father and an alliance with a new partner was just what Jamie needed to grow as a wrestler and a person.

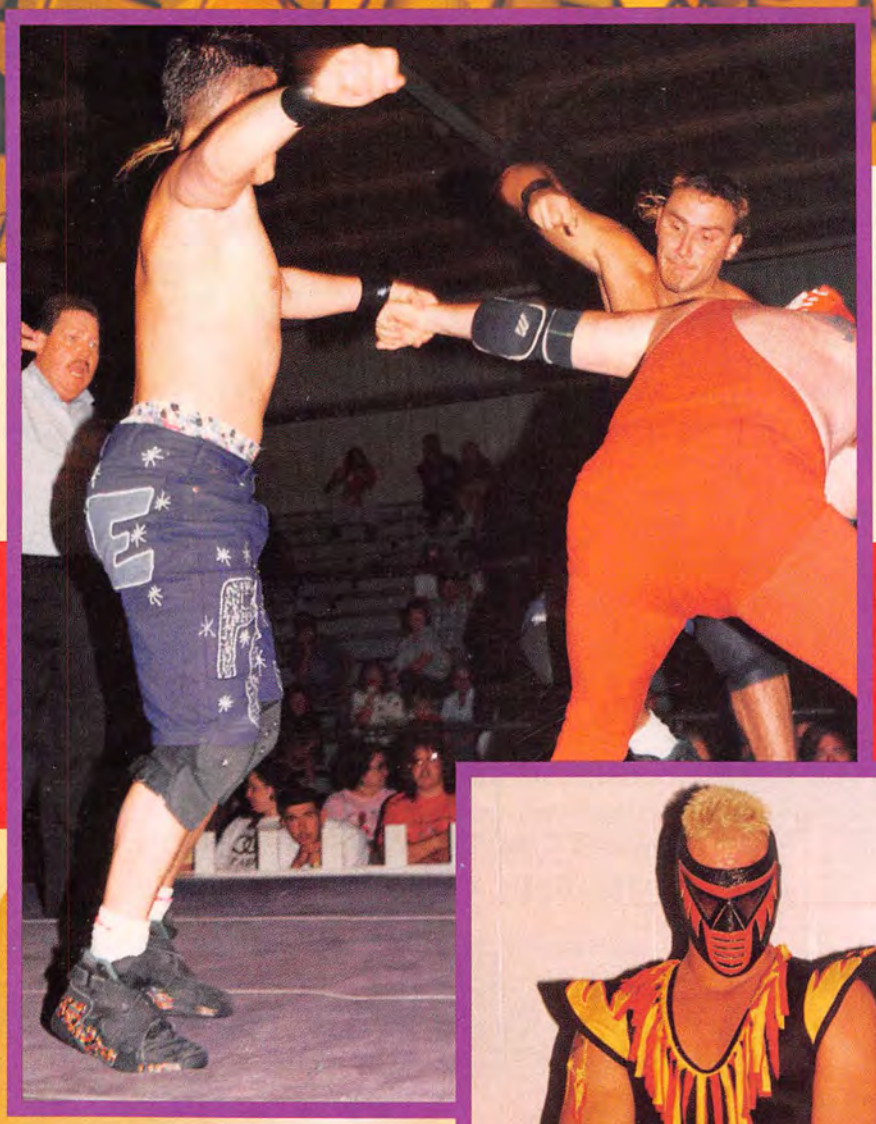
I watched the two of them mature as a tag team. They had a chance to be one of the best teams ever to come out of this territory. Although it happened under controversial circumstances, I quietly cheered when they beat Brian Christopher and Jeff Jarrett for their first USWA tag team title in November of '93. And even though that quick success led to a brief spat and feud, Wolfie and Jamie soon reunited and won more titles.

With each win, their confidence grew, and they seemed to be having so much fun. They beat teams like The Eliminators and Tommy Rich and Doug Gilbert for the belts, but their greatest victory came against The Rock 'n' Roll Express at the "Night Of Legends" card in





Photographer Jerry Wilson got these exclusive shots of an impromptu Jamie Dundee-Wolfie D brawl that broke out in the stairwell of an arena before a recent USWA card. It's hard to believe how much these two former partners hate each other.



PG-13's star was rising. They were on their way.

But soon after all those good times were over, things began to unravel for PG-13. And let me tell you—they unraveled real fast. Last September, we fired Bill Dundee after he pulled a

(Continued on page 58)

One reason PG-13 had so much success over the last four years was that they were expert double-teamers (left). After being exiled from the USWA, they returned and won the USWA tag belts as The Cyberpunks (below). Soon afterward, their troubles began.

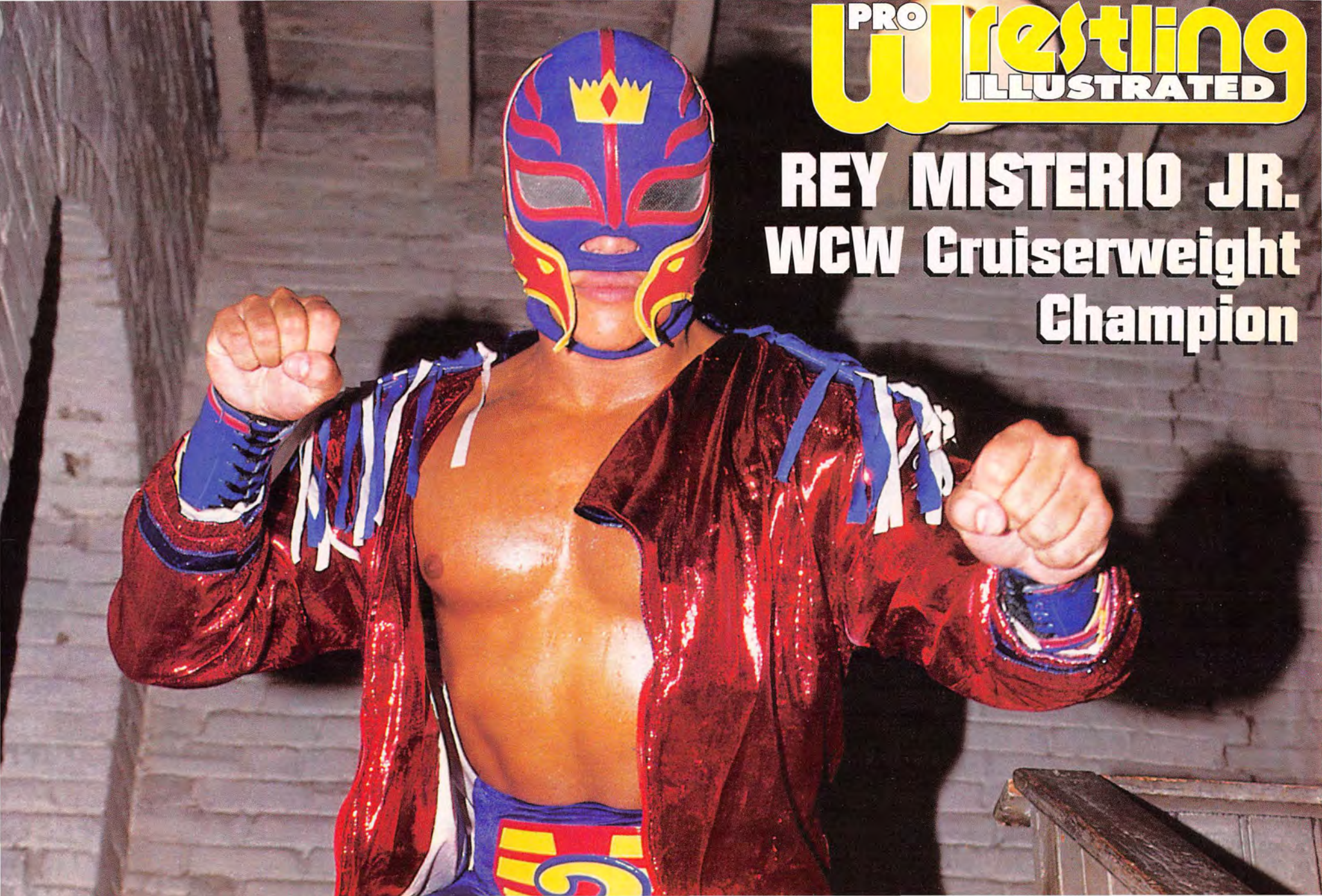
"Night Of Legends" card in Louisville in June of last year. I looked at that as a changing of the guard. A great team of the '90s beat a great team of the '80s.

Then there was their victory over The Smokin' Gunns in Memphis. The WWF was so impressed that they invited Wolfie and Jamie to wrestle for them a few times.

close-up:

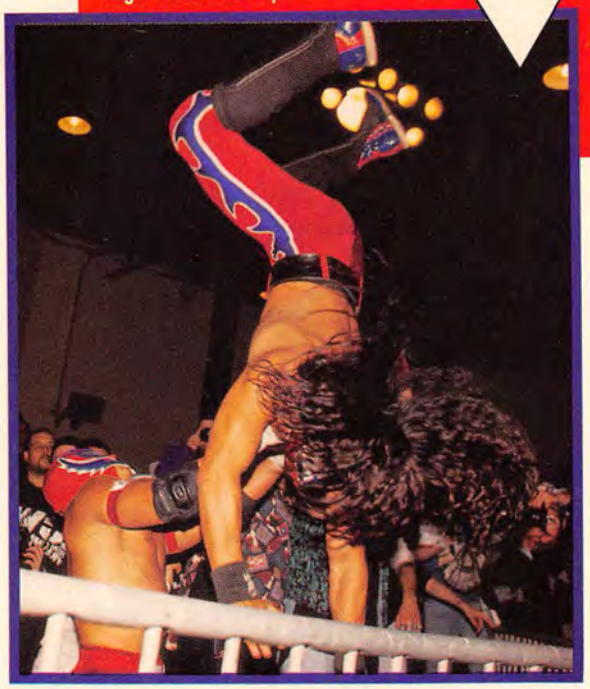
REY MISTERIO JR.

CURRENT WCW CRUISERWEIGHT champ Rey Misterio Jr. has fast become one of the more popular stars in WCW ... Continually amazes people with his speed, ingenuity, and ability to absorb punishment with a 5'3" 140-pound frame ... Has been a favorite in Mexico's AAA for years ... Was born December 11, 1974, in San Ysidro, California, and grew up in San Diego ... A big fan of both Mexican and American wrestling while growing up, he idolized his uncle, wrestler Rey Misterio Sr. ... Started training with his uncle at age 13, weighing just 105 pounds ... Also training with him were Konnan, Psicosis, Halloween, Misterioso, and Torero ... Wrestled his first pro match in April 1990 In Tijuana against Shamu using the ring name Colibri (Spanish for hummingbird) ... Wrestled under that name in Southern California and Baja, California, for the next two-plus years ... Impressed fans with his high-flying moves ... First big match was in Los Angeles in 1992 against El Salvaje ... That match marked the beginning of one of Mexico's greatest rivalries; Salvaje would later change his name to Psicosis ... Later that year in Tijuana, his uncle surprised him by presenting him with a mask in the ring and giving him the name Rey Misterio Jr. ... Promoter Antonio Pena formed AAA later that year, and after leaving EMLL for the new promotion, Konnan recommended to Pena that he bring in Misterio, who was then just 17 years old and 125 pounds ... Pena (wisely, it turns out) took Konnan's advice ... Misterio began his AAA career as Super Nino (Spanish for Super Kid) and soon got involved in a feud with veteran AAA tag team champs Tony Arce and Vulcano ... Gained national acclaim by beating both in mask vs. mask matches ... Still only 17, he won the AAA welterweight title from Fantasma de la Quebrada Jr. on October 28, 1992 in Aguascalientes ... Lost it on February 26, 1993, to Heavy Metal in Mexico City ... Meanwhile, Misterio, Psicosis, Heavy Metal, Volador, La Parka, Winners, and Super Calo were doing wonders for AAA's popularity by seemingly inventing new aerial moves in every match ... Misterio teamed with Volador and Misterioso to defeat Arce, Vulcano, and Rocco Valente at the first TripleMania card on April 30, 1993 (50,000 fans attended) ... He, Misterioso, and Volador lost to Psicosis, Heavy Metal, and Jerry Estrada on August 28, 1993, at the Los Angeles Sports Arena in front of the largest crowd to watch a wrestling card on the West Coast in 22 years ... Remained a top AAA star for the remainder of that year and beyond ... Teamed with Winners and Heavy Metal and lost to Espectro, Fuerza Guerrera, and Jerry Estrada on March 12, 1994, in Los Angeles ... Continued feuding with Psicosis ... Teamed with his uncle and Winners to beat Arce, Vulcano, and Valente at the TripleMania card on April 26, 1994, in Aguascalientes ... The two Misterios and Volador lost to Misterioso, Fuerza Guerrera, and Juventud Guerrera (Fuerza's son) at a TripleMania card on May 15 in Guadalajara ... That marked the beginning of Rey Jr.'s feud with Juventud ... Rey Jr. beat Juventud for the AAA lightweight title on November 30 in Matamoros ... That ignited a feud between the Guerreras, who held the AAA tag team title, and the Misterios ... Rey Sr. put up his middleweight title and Rey Jr. his lightweight belt against the Guerreras' tag team belts in a match on March 2, 1995, in Xalapa ... The Guerreras won and took home all three titles ... Rey Jr. teamed with his uncle and Torero to beat Fuerza Guerrera, Fishman, and Pirata Morgan on the TripleMania card in May 1994 ... Teamed with Octagon and midget Octagoncito (known as a "mini" in Mexico) to beat Fuerza Guerrera, Juventud Guerrera, and Fuercita Guerrera on September 28 ... Made his debut on American pay-per-view TV on the "When Worlds Collide" show on November 6, 1994, when he, Heavy Metal, and Latin Lover lost to Fuerza Guerrera, Psicosis, and Louie Spicolli ... It was on that card that he first got noticed by many American fans ... Misterio, Octagon, and El Hijo del Santo lost to Fuerza and Juventud Guerrera and Psicosis in what many in Mexico say was one of the best six-man matches in that nation's history on April 30, 1995, in Guadalajara ... Regained the AAA lightweight title from Juventud Guerrera on June 16, 1995, in Queretearo and also became AAA welterweight champion by beating Psicosis on September 22 ... Psicosis regained the belt six nights later only to see Misterio win it again one night after that ... Made his debut in Japan in December 1995 and beat Psicosis in his first match there ... By this time, he was also wrestling regularly in ECW, where fans loved his high-risk style ... Had some outstanding matches with Psicosis and Juventud Guerrera there, too ... Occasionally teamed with Konnan in ECW ... In one unusual match in January 1996, Misterio teamed with 911, who stands 7', to beat The Eliminators ... WCW officials soon became very interested in Misterio ... He lost the welterweight title to Guerrera early in 1996, but got some revenge by beating him in Mexico's first-ever car vs. car match ... Regained the title from Guerrera on July 21 in Tokyo ... Was noticed by WCW Senior Vice President Eric Bischoff at the World Wrestling Peace Festival in June, where he teamed with Ultimo Dragon to beat Psicosis and Heavy Metal ... Soon after, Bischoff convinced him to sign with WCW ... Immediately got a shot at cruiserweight champ Dean Malenko upon his arrival, but ended up losing the first two times he faced "The Man Of 1,000 Holds" ... Finally pinned Malenko for the belt on July 8 ... One week later, Psicosis beat him for the AAA welterweight belt in Phoenix, but Misterio regained it three days after that ... Has looked sharp in rematches with Malenko, as well as in WCW matches with Guerrera and Super Calo ... If he can avoid serious injury, Misterio should remain an international superstar for years to come. □


PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED
REY MISTERIO JR.
WCW Cruiserweight Champion

TOUGHEST OPPONENT

Juventud Guerrera. They started competing in Mexico's AAA at about the same time, and it didn't take long for Guerrera to become jealous of Misterio because of all the attention he received. Guerrera is a terrific wrestler in his own right and he has a point to prove. The two have done battle in AAA, ECW, Japan, and now WCW, with neither getting a decisive victory.



MOST HATED OPPONENT

Psicosis. Like Guerrera, Psicosis has followed Misterio just abou everywhere he has gone. The longtime AAA rivals made their EC and WCW debuts at the same time and have had some thrillin matches in all three promotions. For some reason, Psicosis ha never shown Misterio much respect, and Misterio is always happ to get the chance to wrestle him.

GREATEST MATCH

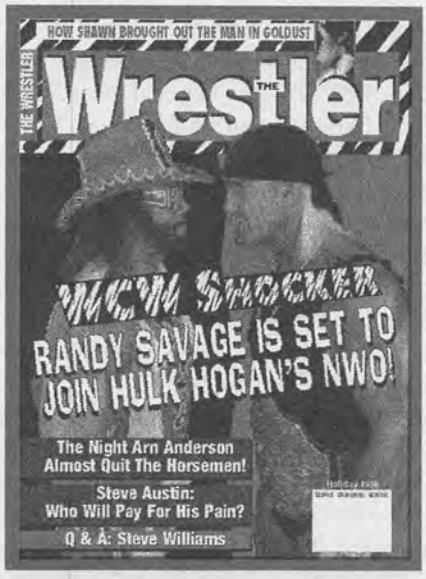
vs. Dean Malenko, July 8, 1996. Misterio won several titles in Mexico before coming to the U.S., but the WCW cruiserweight belt was the first major championship he captured in the States. Malenko had beaten him twice before in WCW by keeping Misterio on the mat and out of the air. Though Rey Jr. took a lot of punishment in this bout, he ultimately came back and made use of his aerial talents to pin Malenko.

FAVORITE MANEUVER

Flying headscissors/"Frankensteiner." It's hard to describe how Misterio executes this move, because he never does so in exactly the same manner. He'll usually leap into the air and wrap his legs around an opponent's head, then, while facing away from the opponent, roll him over into the mat head-first . . . sometimes into position for a pin. Amazing athleticism.

this month in...

The Wrestler

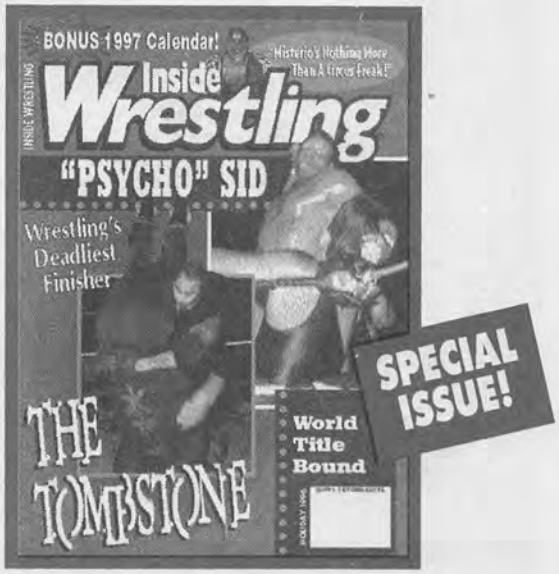


The **NEW WORLD ORDER** seems to get stronger by the week, maybe even by the day. But there's one man we're sure will inevitably join. It's only a matter of time. That man is **RANDY SAVAGE**, and we'll tell you why he is NWO-bound … "I brought out the man in **GOLDUST**!" That's what **SHAWN MICHAELS** said after beating the bizarre one one night. Find out exactly what he meant … We were hesitant to believe it at first, too, but from what we can tell, it really did almost happen. One night this summer, **ARN ANDERSON** almost quit **THE FOUR HORSEMEN**!

All this—and much more!—in the Winter 1996 issue of ***The Wrestler***

NOW ON SALE!

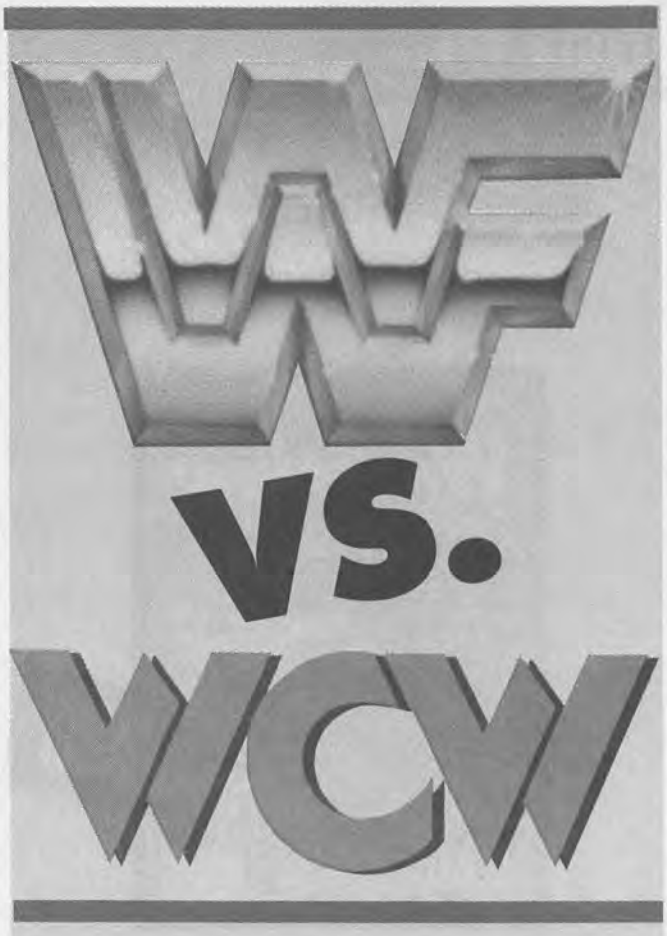
Inside Wrestling



Don't miss our special 1997 calendar and datebook … You've probably seen **THE UNDERTAKER** execute the move hundreds of times, but we'll tell you exactly why the "tombstone" piledriver is still the sport's deadliest finisher … By now, it has become all too clear that the **NEW WORLD ORDER** will do whatever it takes to get some of the world's best wrestlers in its fold. But **HULK HOGAN** and company have yet to acquire a premier tag team. We have learned, though, that they made an offer to the **STEINERS**. **RICK** and **SCOTT** did more than turn them down!

All this—and much more!—in the Winter 1996 issue of ***Inside Wrestling***

NOW ON SALE!



Each month, PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED will take a close look at the latest developments in the WWF-WCW wars. It's your chance to get a better handle on who's winning perhaps the most crucial battle in the sport's history!

AND WE ALL thought The Renegade was a cheap imitation? When Hulk Hogan promised he'd have "the ultimate surprise" with him at WCW Uncensored '95, most of us figured it was The Ultimate Warrior. When it turned out to be a Warrior wannabe, a man who looked like the Warrior and darted around the ring like the Warrior, we felt cheated.

The fans wanted The Ultimate Warrior, but they got The Renegade, and they weren't happy.

Jim Ross must not have learned anything from watching that fiasco. When he promised that "Big Daddy Cool" Diesel and "The Bad Guy" Razor Ramon would be in Hershey, Pennsylvania, for the September 23 broadcast and taping of *WWF Monday Night Raw*, the fans and many WWF employees (including President Gorilla Monsoon) were shocked. They doubted Ross, and as it turns out, for good reason.

The "Razor Ramon" and "Diesel" who were in Hershey that night were obviously not Scott Hall and Kevin Nash. Hall and Nash were at a *WCW Monday Nitro* card in Birmingham, Alabama, that night. Ross may have thought bringing a new Razor and a new Diesel into the WWF would generate even more interest and higher TV ratings for the federation, but if he did, he was probably dead wrong.

Many of the fans in attendance for *Raw* that night chanted "Fake! Fake!" when the two impostors made their first appearances. Before Ross introduced the ersatz Ramon, he lashed out at WWF head Vince McMahon and mentioned that he had a great job in Atlanta (the home base of WCW) before joining the WWF. That made some fans think that maybe Ross was

THE RAW-NITRO WAR

For the fourth straight month, Nitro's Nielsen numbers have increased, while Raw's have decreased. Through April 1996, Raw led Nitro by 2.78-2.68. Through September, Nitro led Raw, 2.88-2.72.

One thing that doesn't help the WWF's cause is being preempted so often on the USA Network. While Raw was forced to yield its time slot to the U.S. Open on August 26 and September 2, Nitro scored its biggest weeks of those months, both coming in at 4.3. Of course, Nitro suffered similarly when the NBA playoffs were featured on TNT.

	Date	Rating	Households	Main Event
RAW	9/2	no show		
NITRO	9/2	4.6	2.74 mil.	Horsemen-Dungeon
RAW	9/9	2.4	1.64 mil.	Faarooq-Vega
NITRO	9/9	3.7	2.56 mil.	Luger-R. Steiner
RAW	9/16	2.1	1.49 mil.	Sid-Faarooq
NITRO	9/16	3.6	2.45 mil.	Luger-Benoit/McMichael
RAW	9/23	2.0	1.42 mil.	Mero-Faarooq
NITRO	9/23	3.4	2.36 mil.	P. Enemy-H. Heat
RAW	9/30	2.3	1.6 mil.	Lothario/Michaels-Vader/Cornette
NITRO	9/30	3.3	2.26 mil.	Benoit-R. Steiner

somehow part of the New World Order.

He is most certainly not, but the fact that reaction to the introduction of the impostor Ramon and Diesel has been so negative might be good news for WCW. A few disgruntled WWF fans might start following WCW more closely so they can watch the original Razor Ramon and original Diesel.

On the subject of another (potential) interpromotional war, we should point out that at least for the time being, the battle between ECW and the WWF *(see "Wrestling Enquirer" on page 68 for details)* is over.

Some fans who saw what happened at two WWF cards in Pennsylvania in September wondered if ECW wrestlers might start showing up regularly on WWF cards, and vice versa. It's probably not going to happen. Although it might have sparked some additional interest in the WWF (and thus, in a way, helped the WWF in its war with WCW), it's probably good that it isn't. A war between two promotions as different as the WWF and ECW could have gotten ugly.

The only new wrestler to jump federations as of press time was The 1-2-3 Kid (now Six), who wasted very little time in joining the NWO after he was released from his WWF contract. Virgil (now Vince), of course, joined the organization as head of security in September, but he had not been with the WWF recently, so it's not fair to say he jumped.

(For a look back at the comprehensive history of the WWF-WCW war, as well as a look at where it might be headed in the future, be sure to pick up a copy of the Winter 1996 issue of ***Wrestle America****. It hits newsstands November 19.)*

VOICE OF THE FANS

[Editor's note: Many of this month's letters are responses to questions posed in the November 1996 issue regarding fans' Monday night viewing habits.]

There's just something exciting about watching a *live* wrestling show every Monday night. I always watch *Nitro*, and I tape *Raw* if I know a match I want to see is going to be shown. I can't stand Hulk Hogan and the NWO, but I can't help wondering what they're going to do. That's the main reason I'm a loyal *Nitro* watcher.

GEORGE FRANKLIN
Santa Monica, CA

The only thing about *Nitro* that interests me is the controversy with referee Nick Patrick. I have always liked Nick, and I really don't know what his problem is. If it wasn't for that, I'd be watching Shawn Michaels on *Raw*.

NANCY BALZER
Mansfield, OH

Since *Nitro* became a two-hour show, I watch *Nitro* and tape *Raw*. I figure that waiting to watch a show that's almost always taped shouldn't hurt. Despite this, I still consider *Raw* to be my favorite show.

RIC GILLESPIE
Linthicum, MD

I was thinking back to when there were no Monday night wrestling shows. This was when WCW (then the NWA) had a two-hour show on WTBS, and the WWF's big night was Tuesday night, with *Tuesday Night Titans* on USA. Even back then the WWF was better.

KURT MULLER
Newark, DE

On any given Monday, I tune into *Nitro*, and at around 8:55 p.m., I become irritated by the dynamite countdown to the second hour. It's like the first hour has been a waste of time and the second hour is what I've been waiting for. I spend the next hour waiting for something to happen on either program. I take my chances flipping channels, since I figure that whatever I miss will no doubt be shown repeatedly again anyway.

KEVIN BURKE
Wood Ridge, NJ

I am a fan of both federations, and Monday night is my favorite night. I don't have a favorite show, though. I watch whichever looks more interesting. I drive everyone crazy by switching channels; they can't understand how I can keep track of what's happening. I do get more entertainment on Monday nights this way, though.

TIM DANAHER
Norwich, NY

I don't even understand why this war is even going on. There will never be a winner, just a lot of upset fans. The promotions need to realize that fans of one federation won't switch promotions just because of the Monday night stuff. My favorite is WCW, and it always will be, because I can't understand how people can stand a world champ who does stripteases. Some people like theatrical entrances like those in the WWF, and some people like me just like the kind of wrestling you get in WCW.

ZACH LUTZ
Eagle, ID

They Said It!

Vince McMahon, making a live cyberspace appearance in the WWF chat room on America Online: "[Ted] Turner continues to deficit spend quite like the U.S. government. It seems as though the only thing Mr. Turner really cares about is Monday night TV ratings. He has pooled many of his resources dedicated to hurt the WWF. In the end, the only individuals he is hurting are fans, because they have the opportunity to watch two shows at the same time."

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. The Iron Sheik and Bob Backlund, together, on the same side, managing The Sultan, absolutely boggles the mind. Next thing you know, George Bush and Saddam Hussein will be carpooling.

Having found something they agree upon—that The Sultan has the makings of a superstar—Backlund and Sheik have somehow managed to put behind them differences that go back 13 years, to a time before Sheik beat Backlund for the WWF World heavyweight title in December 1983.

"We have our eyes on other men to add to our company," Sheik said. "Bob Backlund and Iron Sheik will soon own WWF."

Wow, it's amazing how rulebreakers can come together for a common cause. What's really amazing about this is that Backlund, despite being a rulebreaker, has remained loyal to his country in the ultimate way: by saying he wanted to run for President. Apparently it's The Iron Sheik who has changed his ways and finally seen the good in the U.S. of A.

"America great country," Sheik said, speaking words I had never heard come from his mouth. "In America, anything possible."

Yeah, but this? Okay, we beat Canada at hockey, their own game. We managed to make the Olympics even more commercial. We've even managed to have five straight presidential elections in which we really didn't have a choice (Backlund was starting to look good). But Backlund and The Iron Sheik together? It boggles the mind.

I wanted to ask Hulk Hogan about this, but when he saw me, he turned and walked away, his usual response when I ask him a question (he seems to think I write bad things about him). Hacksaw Duggan had a similar response. Okay, they're WCW guys, and they don't walk to talk about somebody in enemy camp. U.S. vs. Iran is one thing. WCW vs. the WWF is something altogether different.

The one thing I can't find out, no matter how many people I speak to, is how Backlund and Sheik got together in the first place. Did Sheik call Backlund and say, "Backlund, Sheik. Let bygones ..." Or did Backlund, recognizing that America's true enemy is an Iraqi, Mr. Hussein, and a Cuban, Fidel Castro, decide Iran had moved far enough down on his enemies list?

Actually, sources in the WWF suggested that the Backlund-Sheik alliance was a matter of "I found him first. No, I found him first." Unable to settle the disagreement, and with both holding contracts signed on the same day, Backlund and Sheik realized they had no choice but to get along.

Backlund and Sheik both deny this, but don't suggest an alternative explanation that makes more sense—like Backlund and Sheik met over breakfast at a Bob's Big Boy and, after throwing eggs at each other, realized they had a common interest, after all.

The victim in all this could be The Sultan. He's in the middle of the most

Pity the poor, unfortunate Sultan. He may have the skills to become a star in the WWF, but how hard must it be for him to try to listen to the advice of both Bob Backlund and The Iron Sheik?

It was Sheik, of course, who ended Backlund's long WWF World title reign on that fateful day in December 1983. Dave Rosenbaum wonders how these two got together to form an alliance in the first place.

volatile managerial situation since Billy Martin and George Steinbrenner, or at least since Sensational Sherri and Col. Robert Parker. All of this is going to implode, and he's going to end up with a nice, big piece of Iranian/American shrapnel sticking out of his ear.

There should be a buyer protection clause in contracts, something that prevents The Sultan from getting hurt when Backlund and Sheik come to blows. Okay, some might say *caveat emptor* (let the buyer beware), but in this case, the emptor has no clothes. The Sultan thinks he's getting advice from two of the greatest wrestlers of all-time. He is, but what's that advice? I mean, The Iron Sheik thinks camels make good pets, while Backlund goes nuts at the slightest provocation. If The Sultan gets anywhere close to a title, it'll be the most incredible case ever of a wrestler overcoming his advisers. Iron Sheik and Backlund are trying to make managerial names for themselves, but this is no lasting act.

The starstruck Sultan doesn't know what he got himself into.

* * *

What's in a name? You never know what's going to get people's attention. No column I've written has elicited more response than my November 1996 "Steel Cage," which dealt with some of the more ridiculous ring names some wrestlers are using. Some wrestlers accused me of being insensitive to their heritages and one pointed out, quite hilariously, I thought, that I should have researched the background of these names before ridiculing them.

Wrote one: "Maybe Woody Woodchuck sounds like a cartoon to you, but did you know that in some ancient Polynesian dialects, Dave Rosenbaum means Bugs Bunny?

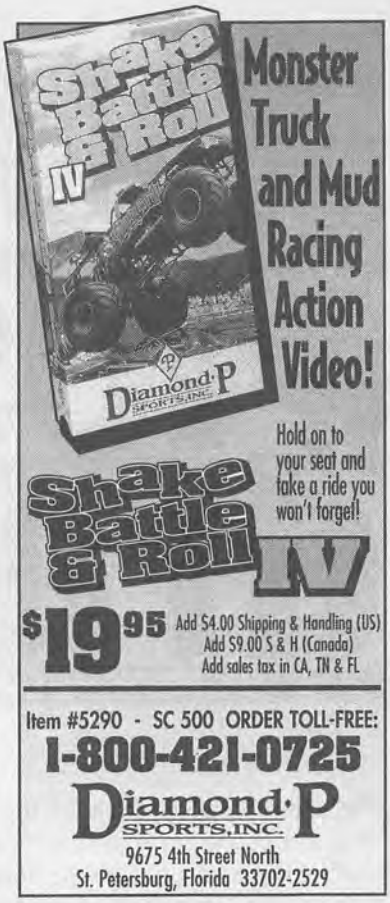
No, I didn't know that, and I'm sure it's not true.

The Prince of Polyester, who of course was also mentioned in the column, accused me of not being up on the latest fashions. Now I admit to being a T-shirt and jeans kind of person, but he's right: I should've known that a lot of young people these days are wearing polyester clothes that are a throwback to the 1970s.

My mistake, and theirs, too.

Finally, I missed one: WCW newcomer Super Calo, a sensation in Mexico for years. This guy has talent.

But still I must ask: Is Super Calo short for Supercalofragolisticexpialadocious? □



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win or lose or draw

BY ANDY RODRIGUEZ

SOPHOMORE JINX IS the phrase often used to describe the problems an athlete has after enjoying an excellent rookie season. With the choices The Giant has made lately, it would be no surprise to see him have a bad second year. But this time, the only jinx would be the one he inflicted on himself.

The Giant's decision to join the New World Order came after numerous appeals from the organization's ringleader, Hulk Hogan, and his two lieutenants, Kevin Nash and Scott Hall. Of course Ted DiBiase helped matters by offering the big man a lot of cash.

As they've told dozens of fellow wrestlers and reporters, The Giant's addition to the group was crucial in their plans to take over WCW.

Those close to The Giant say he reveled in their recruitment. It made him feel like the most important man in wrestling, which he might have been already, considering that he has already held the WCW World championship. He said he decided to take the plunge for one reason: money. He made the dubious claim that DiBiase told him he could have a house as nice as Hogan's if he joined the NWO.

But despite what he says, The Giant probably already had enough money to buy a very nice house. He is angling for more than financial security. What The Giant is engaged in is a power game, one befitting his immense size.

Hogan and company apparently have convinced him he'll reign even more completely in their New World Order. They are holding out more than gold; they are promising glory. And what recent World champion, especially one as young and hungry as The Giant, can resist that?

Giant isn't concerned about Nash and Hall's past. He isn't concerned that Hogan may be using him for his own purposes. He looks short-term and likes what he sees. Consequences? Those are for losers.

He has, almost everyone around him says, told himself there is no way either he or the NWO will fail. WCW is ready to be taken. Sting doesn't scare him. Neither do Lex Luger or Randy Savage.

They may not scare him. But how about The Four Horsemen? They should.

Together, Ric Flair, Arn Anderson, Chris Benoit, and Steve McMichael intend to prove to The Giant that signing with the NWO was definitely the wrong thing for him to do. The Horsemen care a great deal about WCW. They sincerely believe it's the best organization in wrestling. They have gladly struck deals with their enemies in order to fight the NWO. They despised The Giant when he was allied with

(Continued on page 46)

The Giant is more confident and more ferocious than ever now that he has the NWO to watch his back for him. Andy Rodriguez, though, doesn't think it was necessarily wise for him to join that group.

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win, lose, or draw

(Continued from page 44)

Kevin Sullivan. They did cheer him when he battled Hogan, but only because Hogan was their chief target at the time. Now that Hogan and The Giant are cohorts, they despise them both even more.

Flair hates Giant because he threatens Flair's status as WCW's top man. Giant's powerful alliance with the NWO increases that threat. The "Nature Boy" assuredly will do everything in his power to stop him.

Anderson is a proud man who hates to see the disrespect The Giant is showing for the sport. Benoit is ready to back up the Horsemen in his threats, and then there is McMichael, who thought he had it all figured out. Everyone had always told him that WCW is the place to be, and the Horsemen are the group to join. But only a few months after he made his decision to go for the glory, the NWO got The Giant.

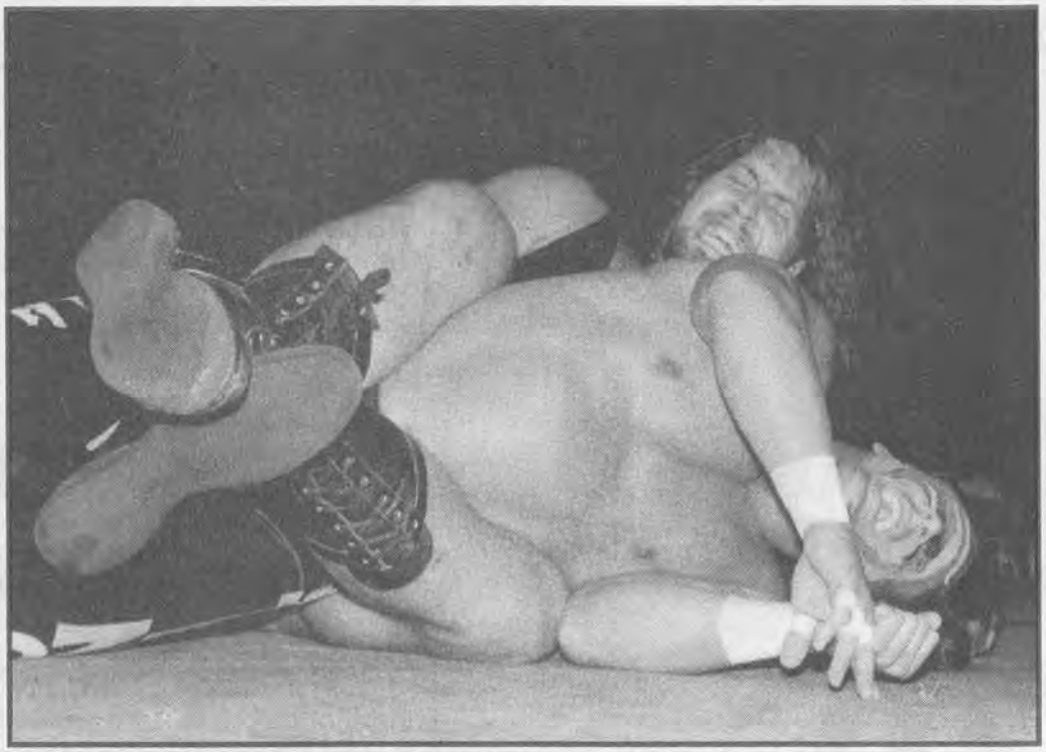
The ex-football player is desperate to prove that his shocking actions were no mistake. He belonged in the Horsemen, the big boys on the block. He reasons that if The Giant and his new pals are the big danger, then they have to go.

Sure, it's the NWO vs. WCW, but it's also the Horsemen vs. NWO, and the Horsemen vs. The Giant. With his bold move, the big man made enemies of the most dangerous group in the sport's history. What happens if the NWO ultimately crumbles? He's all alone then.

Naturally, The Giant will get help from Hogan, Nash, and Hall. They don't intend to let him fight off the Horsemen alone. They've invested a lot in him, and they're not going to squander that investment.

Not now, at least. But the NWO constantly is searching for new recruits. As greatly as they favor The Giant, they know his addition to the gang is not going to be enough.

As the NWO's ranks grow, however, something significant is going to happen to The Giant. It was often said of many WWF wrestlers that they had become "lost in the shuffle," due to the federation's vast talent base. Certainly it would be hard to lose someone like The Giant "in the shuffle," but Hogan, Nash, DiBiase, and Hall are hungry to recruit the best. Those new competitors are bound to obscure The Giant, merely because their newness will take attention away from the behemoth.



The Giant doesn't appear to be too worried that Sting and other WCW fan favorites will intensify their efforts to destroy him now that he has betrayed WCW. But who will he have as an ally if the NWO falls apart?

The Giant is, in essence, the "flavor of the month." Soon there'll be more new flavors. The 1-2-3 Kid (now Six) has already joined them. But the next new wrestler, be it Jeff Jarrett or whomever, suddenly will become the NWO's indispensable key to success.

Will The Giant's mighty ego be able to handle this lack of attention? Perhaps. So far, though, he has shown no increase in maturity, no indication that he's ready to share the spotlight. He joined the NWO because it would support his greatness. He doesn't want to be one of many; he wants to be the one.

As someone once sang, one can be a lonely number. And in this sport, not even a giant wants to be alone. □

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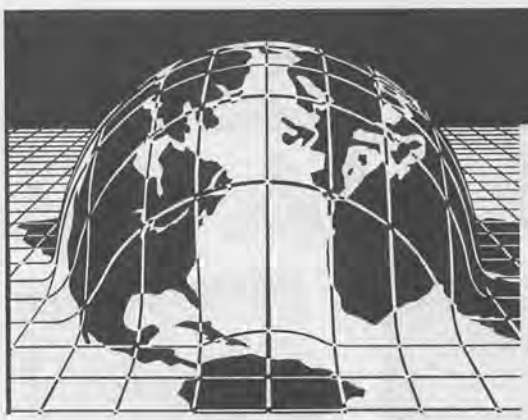

arena reports

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UNITED STATES

ALABAMA

CULLMAN—Southeastern Championship Wrestling at the West Sportatorium: **Bo LeDuc** beat **Chris Michaels** ... **Danny Garvin** beat **Demon Master** ... **Shane Wild** defeated **Superstar III** ... **Mr. Olympia** defeated **Deon Walker** ... **Mike Golden** defeated **Scott Armstrong.**
(08-23-96)

—Denise Engle

CALIFORNIA

BAKERSFIELD—Slammers Wrestling Federation at Strongbow Stadium: **The Samoan Kid** defeated **Dynamite Kid** ... **Hombre de Oro** beat **El Toro Bravo** ... **Bruce Beaudine** defeated **Verne Langdon** ... **El Toro Bravo** defeated **The Samoan Kid** ... Heavyweight champion **Jeff Lindberg** beat **Tyrone Little.**
(09-05-96)

—Gregg John

BAKERSFIELD—SWF at Strongbow Stadium: **Pete Malloy** defeated **Zu the Gargoyle** ... **El Toro Bravo** defeated **The Samoan Kid** ... **The Samoan Kid** defeated **Zu the Gargoyle** ... **Tyrone Little** wrestled **Hombre de Oro** to a no-contest ... Heavyweight champion **Jeff Lindberg** defeated **Bruce Beaudine** in a lumberjack strap match.
(08-22-96)

—Gregg John

COLORADO

DENVER—WCW Clash of the Champions XXXIII at the Coliseum: Cruiserweight champ **Rey Misterio Jr.** pinned **Dean Malenko** ... **V.K. Wall Street** defeated **Hacksaw Duggan** ... **Konnan** pinned **Ultimo Dragon** ... **Meng** beat **Randy Savage** by forfeit when Savage, who was injured three nights earlier by **Hulk Hogan**, was unable to appear for the match ... **Madusa** pinned **Bull Nakano** after **Sonny Ono's** interference backfired ... **Eddy Guerrero** pinned **"Diamond" Dallas Page** ... **The Giant** pinned **Chris Benoit** ... The triangle match between World tag team champions **Harlem Heat, Rick & Scott Steiner**, and **Lex Luger & Sting** was stopped by referee **Nick Patrick** when Patrick saw **Scott Hall & Kevin Nash** attacking Luger & Sting at ringside ... **Ric Flair** defeated World champ **Hulk Hogan** by disqualification when **Scott Hall & Kevin Nash** interfered.
(08-15-96)

—Doug Reed

FLORIDA

GOULDS—Sunshine Wrestling Federation at the Mays Middle School: **Paul Adonis** beat **Punk Rock** ... **Alex G & Andre Moore** defeated **The Outlaws** ... **Little Lone Eagle** defeated **Little Bad John** in a midget match ... Caribbean champion **Johnny Torres** defeated **Madman Pondo** ... **Demon Hellstorm** beat **Death Row** ... **Death Row** won a battle royal.
(08-31-96)

—Bernard Siegel

MIAMI—SWF at the Miccosukee Tribe: **Punk Rock** beat **Buck Quartermaine** ... **Jimmy Del Ray** defeated **Andre Moore** ... **Malia Hosaka** beat **Lady Vendetta** ... **Clay Hatfield** defeated **Bobby Davis** ... **Paul Adonis** beat **George Suave** ... Caribbean champ **Johnny Torres** beat **Madman Pondo** ... **Chief White Eagle & Little Lone Eagle** beat **Demon Hellstorm & Little Bad John.**
(08-30-96)

—Bernard Siegel

ORLANDO—*WCW Worldwide* taping at Disney/MGM Studios: **Alex Wright** defeated **Disco Inferno** ... **Brad Armstrong** beat **Chavo Guerrero Jr.** ... **Billy Kidman** beat **Jerry Lynn** ... **Chris Jericho** defeated **Prince Iaukea** ... **Public Enemy** beat **Joe Gomez & The Renegade** ... **Jim Powers** defeated **Mark Starr** ... **Chris Benoit** beat **Chris Jericho** ... **Glacier** beat **Pat Tanaka** ... **Eddy Guerrero** beat **Dean Malenko** ... **Lex Luger** wrestled **Rick Steiner** to a double-countout ... **Randy Savage** defeated **Meng.**
(08-30-96)

—Tony Carsen

GEORGIA

GAINESVILLE—*WCW Saturday Night* taping at the Georgia Mountains Center: **Dallas Page** beat **Hacksaw Duggan** by disqualification ... **Bobby Walker** defeated **Arn Anderson** by disqualification ... **V.K. Wall Street** beat **Randy Savage** by disqualification ... **Lex Luger** defeated **Ron Studd** ... **Rick Steiner** beat **Kurasawa** ... **Chris Jericho** beat **Billy Kidman** ... **Bobby Eaton** beat **Squire David Taylor** ... **Ice Train** beat **The Gambler** ... **The Nasty Boys** beat **High Voltage.**
(09-04-96)

—Kellie Conrad

ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD—Windy City Wrestling at the Illinois State Fair: Light heavyweight champ **Brandon Bishop** pinned **Ivan Urkoff** ... **El Marlin** beat **Mike Anthony** by countout ... Midget champion **Bobby Dean** pinned **Little Tokyo** ... **Brett Sanders** pinned middleweight champion **Ripper Manson** to win the title ... **The Midwest Wrecking Crew & Crusher Pierce** beat **Bad Influence & Chi-Town T** ... League champ **Turbo** pinned **Bob Backlund.**
(08-16-96)

—Steve Cain

KENTUCKY

SOMERSET—Hardcore Championship Wrestling at the Armory: **The Devastator & Too Hot Thomas** defeated **Mike Woody & Bret Lawler** ... **Rick Gunner** beat **The Superstar** ... HCW champ **Shawn Christopher** beat **The Red Scorpion** by disqualification in a lumberjack match ... **Shawn Christopher & Eddie T** beat **Red Scorpion & Too Hot Thomas** ... **Ric Gunner** defeated **Too Hot Thomas.**
(09-05-96)

—Bill Needham

MIDDLESBORO—Capital Pro Wrestling at the Redman's Lodge: **Big Jess** beat **Eric Rose** ... **Big Hillbilly Chuck** beat **The Bad Hillbilly** ... **Mr. Fantastic & The Kentucky Coal Miner** beat **Jerry Thunder & Danny Pain** ... **The Scorpion** beat **Bad Attitude** ... **Johnny Hart** beat **Chic White** by disqualification ... **The Hutton Family** defeated tag team champs **Big Jess & Kid Lightning** to win the title ... Heavyweight champion **The Orderly** beat **Jerry Thunder** by disqualification.
(08-17-96)

—Bill Needham

JACKSON—HCW at the Armory: **Steve Golden** beat **Jerry Thunder** by disqualification ... **Ric Gunner & The Disco Kid** beat **Too Hot Thomas & Timmy B** ... **Shawn Christopher** beat **Eddie T** ... **The Giant Sandman** beat **Mike the Hammer** in a barbed-wire match ... **Eddie T, Too Hot Thomas, Mike the Hammer, & Jerry Thunder** beat **Shawn Christopher, Rick Gunner, The Disco Kid, & Mike Woody** in a streetfight.
(08-14-96)

—Bill Needham

LOUISIANA

MARRERO—CWF at the American Legion Hall: **Crazy Joe** wrestled **T.J. Sullivan** to a double-disqualification ... **Gator** beat **Paul Edwards** ... **Carl Fergie** beat **Tommy Martinelli** ... **Joe Kane** pinned **Mr. Wrestling III** ... **Al Savage** beat **Doink the Clown** ... **Kevin Northart & Gary Nations** defeated **The Ripper & Saxon** ... **Doug Gilbert** defeated **Tommy Rich.**
(09-08-96)

—Joe Patrick

HOUMA—Mid-South Wrestling at the East Park Recreational Center: **Mr. Wrestling III** beat **Shogun Warrior** ... **Twister** defeated **T.J. Sullivan** by disqualification ... **Bronco Bob** beat **Crazy Joe** by disqualification ... **Joe Kane** defeated **Doink the Clown** ... Tag team champs **Frankie Rhodes & Kevin Northart** defeated **The Ripper &**

Saxon. In accordance with a prematch stipulation, Saxon's head was shaved afterward ... **Tommy Rich** beat **Doug Gilbert** by disqualification.
(09-07-96)

—Joe Patrick

MARYLAND

CATONSVILLE—MEWF at the Armory: **Johnny Desire** pinned **Bob Starr** ... Light heavyweight champ **Steve Corino** beat **Earl the Pearl** ... **The Headbangers** defeated **Menace 2 Society** ... **Ramblin' Rich** pinned **Quinn Nash** ... **Corporal Punishment** & **Axl Rotten** beat tag team champs **Darkside** to win the title ... **Boo Bradley** beat Mid-Atlantic champ **Knuckles Zandwich** by countout ... **Mark Schrader** beat **Jimmy Cicero** ... **Johnny Gunn** defeated **Joe Thunder** ... **Bam Bam Bigelow** pinned **King Kong Bundy**.
(08-19-96)

—Michael J. DiMuzio

MASSACHUSETTS

NORTH READING—Yankee Professional Wrestling at the High School: **Brickhouse Baker** beat **Mark Chambers** ... **Flash** beat **Mr. Montiero** ... **Juan King** defeated **The Arabian Assassin** ... **Mark Chambers** won a battle royal ... **Rick Fuller** beat **The New Jersey Brawler** ... **The Power Company** beat **The Storm Brothers** ... **Greg Valentine** beat **Scott Ashworth** ... **The Booty Man** beat **Kevin Kelly**.
(08-30-96)

—Gary Demuse

MICHIGAN

REDFORD—Insane Championship Wrestling at the Motor City Sports Club: **Denny Kass** defeated **Rhino Richards** ... **Alexis Machine** wrestled **Brian Fury** to a draw ... **Breyer Wellington** beat **Pierre Francois** ... **Ghetto Blaster** beat **Magic** ... **Ian Rotten** defeated **Madman Pondo** ... **Bruiser Bedlam** (managed by **"Handsome" Johnny Bradford**) wrestled **New Jack** to a double-countout.
(08-25-96)

—John McFarlin

MINNESOTA

TRACY—Northern Premier Wrestling at the Prairie Pavillion: **Mr. Dynamic** defeated **The Masked Professor** ... **The Chi-Town Thug** defeated **James Grizzly** ... **Dan Jesser** beat heavyweight champion **Lenny Lane** in a non-title match ... **J.B. Trask** defeated **Horace the Psychopath** in a stretcher match ... **Horace the Psychopath** won a battle royal.
(08-30-96)

—John Warren

MISSOURI

POPLAR BLUFF—North American All-Star Wrestling at the American Legion Hall: **J.T. Atlas** pinned **Vance Nevada** ... **Bart Sawyer** defeated **Charlie Parker** ... **The Bonecrushers** beat **Vance Nevada** & **Charlie Parker** ... **The Colorado Kid** & **Bill Dundee** defeated **Ron McClarity** & **Giant Warrior**.
(08-28-96)

—Mike Myers

NEW JERSEY

YARDVILLE—NWA at Imaginations: **Rik Ratchet** defeated **Billy Reil** ... **The Inferno Kid** pinned **Bud Licious** ... **Mr. Puerto Rico** wrestled **Gino Caruso** to a double-countout ... **Crazy Ivan** pinned **Don Montoya** ... **The Lost Boys** beat **J.R. Ryder** & **Doc Havoc** ... **The Iron Sheik** defeated **Rik Ratchet** by disqualification ... U.S. tag team champions **Bad Attitude** defeated **Downward Spiral** ... **Reckless Youth** beat **Derek Domino** (substituting for **Tommy Cairo**) to win the North American title.
(09-07-96)

—Michael J. DiMuzio

NEW YORK

UTICA—WCW at Donovan Stadium: **Scorch** defeated **Kid Chris** ... **Alex Wright** beat **Disco Inferno** ... **Chris Jericho** beat **Dean Malenko** ... **Hugh Morris** beat **John Tenta** ... **The Nasty Boys** beat **Public Enemy** ... **Hacksaw Duggan** defeated **Meng** ... **Scott Hall** & **Kevin Nash** defeated **Lex Luger** & **Sting** by disqualification ... **The Giant** beat U.S. champ **Ric Flair** in a non-title match.
(08-31-96)

—Kim Peabody

UNIONDALE—WWF at Nassau Coliseum: **The Bushwhackers** beat **Justin Bradshaw** & **Zebakiah** ... **The Grimm Twins** beat **Leif Cassidy** & **Marty Jannetty** ... **Marc Mero** & **Savio Vega** beat **Steve Austin** & **Hunter Hearst Helmsley** ... **Goldust** & **Mankind** beat **Jake Roberts** & **The Undertaker** ... **Henry** & **Phineas Godwinn** defeated World tag team champs **The Smokin' Gunns** by countout ... **Owen Hart** & **Davey Boy Smith** beat **Jim Neidhart** & **Sid Vicious** ... **Shawn Michaels** & **Jose Lothario** beat **Big Van Vader** & **Jim Cornette** by disqualification.
(08-25-96)

—Ray Hearn

STATEN ISLAND—Extreme Championship Wrestling at the Sportsfest: Heavyweight champion **Raven** defeated **Sandman** ... **Louie Spicolli** beat **Hack Myers** ... **Bubba Ray Dudley** beat **Devon Storm** ... **Mikey Whipwreck** beat **John Kronus** ... **2 Cold Scorpio** beat **Perry Saturn** ... **Terry Gordy** & **Tommy Dreamer** defeated **Brian Lee** & **Stevie Richards** ... TV champ **Shane Douglas** beat **Pit Bull II** ... Tag team champs **The Gangstas** beat **The Samoan Gangsta Party** ... **Sabu** beat **Rob Van Dam**.
(08-17-96)

—Jim Anders

NORTH CAROLINA

ROCKINGHAM—PWF at the Armory: **Black Angel** beat **Dr. Feelgood** ... **Scott Powers** beat **The Ninja** ... Junior heavyweight champion **Madd Maxxine** beat **The Iceman** ... **Carolina Dreamer** & **Italian Stallion** beat **Terry Austin** & **George South** in a weapons match.
(09-06-96)

—Brock Chandler

CHARLOTTE—PWF at the PWF Training Center: **Italian Stallion** won an eight-man battle royal ... Junior heavyweight champ **Madd Maxxine** beat **Tyrone Knox** ... **Cruel Connection II** beat **Russian Assassin II** ... **Baby Huey** beat **Austin Steele** ... Heavyweight champion **George South** beat **Carolina Dreamer**.
(09-05-96)

—Brock Chandler

HIGH POINT—Alternative Championship Wrestling at the Armory: ***In first round matches of a tournament to declare new tag team champions:*** **L.A. Wild One** & **Hot Stuff** beat **The Big Lumberjack** & **Sgt. Maxx Rhoades** ... **Tim Blaze** & **Brian Bruise** beat **Dr. Lee Luv** & **The Southern Stud** ... **Jammin' Jerry** & **Rockin' Robbie** wrestled **The Terminators** to a draw ... **Jimmy Valiant** & **Mad Dog Davidson** beat **Rick Link** & **Denny Cooley** ... ***Second round:*** Blaze & Bruise beat Wild One & Hot Stuff (Valiant & Davidson received a bye) ... ***Finals:*** **The New Heartbreak Express** (substituting for Blaze & Bruise, who had to drop out of the tournament after Blaze was injured in the semifinals) beat Valiant & Davidson to win the title.
(08-30-96)

—Randolph Hedrick

GASTONIA—PWF at the Armory: **Masked Maniac** won a battle royal ... **Madd Maxxine** beat **The PWF Juicer** in a loser-leaves-the-PWF match ... PWF champ **George South** defeated **Carolina Dreamer** ... Junior heavyweight champ **Flaming Youth** beat

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Cruel Connection II ... **Italian Stallion** defeated **Terry Austin** in a weapons match.
(08-17-96)

—Brock Chandler

KANNAPOLIS—International Wrestling Alliance at the Baseball Stadium: **Jimmy Valiant** beat **The Assassin** ... **Super Mario** beat **Kevin Kirby** ... **Vladimir Koloff** beat **L.A. Stephens** ... **Nikolai Volkoff, The Masked Superstar,** & **Gary Royal** beat **The Big Cheese, Gene Ligon,** & **David Isley.**
(08-14-96)

—Dan Parris

OHIO

CLEVELAND—WWF SummerSlam '96 pay-per-view at Gund Arena: **Steve Austin** pinned **Yokozuna** at 1:51 in a match not shown on the pay-per-view ... **Owen Hart** pinned **Savio Vega** in 13:23 ... World tag team champs **The Smokin' Gunns** beat **Skip** & **Zip, Leif Cassidy** & **Marty Jannetty,** and **Henry** & **Phineas Godwinn** in a four-way elimination match in 12:18 ... **Sid Vicious** pinned **Davey Boy Smith** after a choke-slam in 6:24 ... **Goldust** pinned **Marc Mero** in 11:01 ... **Jerry Lawler** pinned **Jake Roberts** in 4:07 after hitting him with a bottle ... **Mankind** defeated **The Undertaker** in 26:20 in a boiler room brawl after **Paul Bearer** hit Undertaker with his urn ... World champ **Shawn Michaels** pinned **Big Van Vader** in 18:59. Vader had beaten Michaels by countout at 13:53 and by disqualification at 16:03, but both times, **Jim Cornette,** Vader's manager, demanded the match be restarted.
(08-18-96)

—Brad Garner

OKLAHOMA

OKLAHOMA CITY—WWF at the Myriad: **The Bushwhackers** defeated **Justin Bradshaw** & **Zebakiah** ... **Faarooq** beat **Bob Holly** ... **Jose Lothario** beat **Jim Cornette** ... **The Stalker** beat **Jerry Lawler** ... World tag team champs **The Smokin' Gunns** wrestled **The Grimm Twins** to a double-countout ... **Big Van Vader** defeated **Sid Vicious** ... World champ **Shawn Michaels** defeated **Goldust.**
(09-08-96)

—Clark Peterson

PENNSYLVANIA

WEST NEWTON—Pro Wrestling Express at the Fire Hall: **The Extreme Militia** defeated **The Giant Hillbillies** ... **M. Quackenbush** beat **J.B. Destiny** ... PWE champion **Brian Anthony** wrestled **T. Rantula** to a double-countout ... **Denny Gregory** defeated North American champion **Lord Zoltan** to win the title ... **Bubba the Bulldog** beat **Bonecrusher** by disqualification ... Tag team champions **The Black Cat** & **Paul Atlas** beat **Lou Marconi** & **Stevie Richards.**
(09-07-96)

—Jeff Gorman

NORTH VERSAILLES—PWE at the Eastland Mall: **The Extreme Militia** defeated **The Giant Hillbillies** ... PWE champ **Brian Anthony** beat **T. Rantula** by disqualification ... **Lord Zoltan** pinned **Denny Gregory** to win the North American title ... **Paul Atlas** beat **Lou Marconi** by disqualification ... **Bubba the Bulldog** beat **Bonecrusher** by disqualification ... **M. Quackenbush** beat **Hurricane Holmes.**
(09-06-96)

—Jeff Gorman

READING—Pennsylvania Championship Wrestling at Reading Memorial Stadium: **Race Richards, High Voltage, Freight Train Jones** beat **Col. Jihad Hussien, Diablos Macabre,** & **Dave Dutch** ... **Maxx Crimson** defeated **The Cremator** in a bullrope match ... **Mark Mest** & **Mike Mayhem** (with **Judd the Stud**) beat **Double Delight** ... **Lance Diamond** pinned **Pat Shamrock** ... Heavyweight champ **Troy Mest** (with **Horace A. Mest**) beat **Chef D.Z. Gillespie** ... **King Kong Bundy** wrestled **Boogie Woogie Brown** to a double-countout.
(09-02-96)

—Michael J. DiMuzio

READING—ECW at Bodyslams Arena: **The Sandman** & **Missy Hyatt** beat **Raven** & **Lori Fullington** ... **Hack Myers** beat **Super Nova** ... **Mikey Whipwreck** beat **Little Guido** ... **Louie Spicolli** defeated **Bubba Ray Dudley** ... Tag team champions **The Gangstas** beat **The Samoan Gangsta Party** ... **Tommy Dreamer** & **Terry Gordy** defeated **The Eliminators** ... **Brian Lee** beat **Pablo Marquez** ... **Rob Van Dam** defeated **Tommy Dreamer.**
(08-23-96)

—Danny Munley

ULEDI—Joint Steel City Wrestling/IAW card at Uht Park: **Virgil** beat **Lord Zoltan** ... **T. Rantula** defeated **Lou Marconi** ... **The Fat Man** defeated **J.T. Nightmare** ... **Frank Stalletto** & **Lou Marconi** defeated **The Power Company** ... **Demolition Ax** beat **Greg Valentine** by disqualification ... **Brian Costello** defeated **Hercules** ... **Typhoon** & **Demolition Ax** defeated tag team champions **The Texas Hangmen** to win the title.
(08-24-96)

—Jeff Gorman

PHILADELPHIA—ECW at the ECW Arena: **Louie Spicolli** pinned **Devon Storm** ... **Mikey Whipwreck** defeated **Little Guido** ... **Bubba Ray** & **"Big" Dick Dudley** beat **D-Von Dudley** & **Axl Rotten** ... **Lori Fullington** defeated **Lady Alexandra** in a catfight ... **Terry Gordy** pinned **Brian Lee** ... **Rob Van Dam** defeated **Doug Furnas** ... **Tommy Dreamer** wrestled **Taz** to a no-contest ... **Pit Bull II** & **The Sandman** beat **Shane Douglas** & **Raven** ... Tag team champions **The Gangstas** defeated **The Eliminators** in a steel cage match.
(08-24-96)

—Michael J. DiMuzio

SOUTH CAROLINA

GREENVILLE—Southern Championship Wrestling at the Cowboys Nightlife Club: **J.W. Steele** beat **The Russian Assassin** ... **R.C. Nelson** & **Joe Harley** beat **Freddy Rich** & **Michael Williams** ... **S.W. Steele** wrestled **Madd Maxx Miles** to a double-countout ... **The Freedom Fighter** beat **J.J. Justice** ... **Cruiser Lewis** beat **S.W.A.T.** to capture the SCW title ... **Mikki Free** & **Ricky Regal** beat **The Desperado** & **Jake Mulligan** in a streetfight.
(09-07-96)

—Dan Parris

GREENWOOD—SCW at the Civic Center: **S.W. Steele** & **Cruiser Lewis** beat **Steve Anderson** & **Pan Head Nelson** ... **Jake Mulligan** & **Ricky Regal** beat **Mikki Free** & **Rick Michaels** ... **Johnny Dollar** & **Madd Maxx Miles** defeated **J.W. Steele** & **Joe Harley** ... **The Desperado** & **The Freedom Fighter** beat **J.J. Justice** & **The Nightmare** ... **Cruiser Lewis** won a battle royal.
(08-31-96)

—Dan Parris

TENNESSEE

SEVIERVILLE—All-Sport Wrestling at the Sevierville Fair: **Steve Flynn** beat **Gabe Casteel** ... **Billy Marshall** defeated **Woody Woodchuck** ... **Keith** & **Greg Hart** defeated tag team champs **The Shogun Warrior** & **Risk Taylor.**
(09-07-96)

—Bill Needham

SPRINGFIELD—USWA at the Springfield Center: **Vampire Warrior** defeated **Flash Flanagan** ... **Frank Morell** beat **Tony Falk** ... **Wolfie D** defeated **Jamie Dundee** in a streetfight ... **Miss Texas** defeated **Luna Vachon** ... **Brian Christopher, Jesse James Armstrong, Frank Morell,** & **Wolfie D** beat **Vampire Warrior, Mike Samples, Tony Falk,** & **Jamie Dundee.**
(09-07-96)

—Frank Miller

MARYVILLE—All-State Wrestling at the Five Points Game Room: **Sammy V** beat **Chic White** by disqualification ... ASW champion **Greg Hart** defeated **Rick Steel** ... **Alex Hutton** & **Sammy V** defeated tag team champions **Felix** & **E.F. Hutton** in a non-title match ... **Eric Rose** & **Tony Prichard** wrestled **Regulator Stone** & **Tim Reed** to a double-disqualification. During the match, Stone was whipped hard into the corner, causing the ring to collapse.
(09-06-96)

—Bill Needham

MEMPHIS—USWA at the Big One Expo Center: **Flash Flanagan** beat **Tony Falk** ... **Tommy Rich** beat **Bart Sawyer** ... Tag team champions **The Moondogs** beat **Vampire Warrior** & **The Punisher** when Warrior walked out on his partner ... **Koko B. Ware** defeated **Brickhouse Brown** ... **Luna Vachon** beat **Miss Texas** ... Southern champion **Brian Christopher** beat **Mike Samples** by disqualification ... **Jesse James Armstrong** & **Wolfie D** beat **Bill** & **Jamie Dundee** ... **Jerry Lawler** defeated USWA champ **Sid Vicious** to win the title.
(09-02-96)

—Mark Mitchell

MEMPHIS—USWA at the Big One Expo Center: **Bart Sawyer** wrestled **Flash Flanagan** to a draw ... **Tony Williams** & **The Colorado Kid** defeated **Mike Samples** & **The Giant Warrior** ... **Jesse James Armstrong** defeated **The Punisher** ... **Frank Morell** beat **Tony Falk** ... **Koko B. Ware** wrestled **Brickhouse Brown** to a double-countout ... **Sid Vicious, Brian Christopher, Doug Gilbert,** & **Wolfie D** beat **Bill** & **Jamie Dundee, Tommy Rich,** & **Tony Falk** ... **Sid Vicious** beat heavyweight champion **Jerry Lawler** to win the title.
(08-30-96)

—Mark Mitchell

CHATTANOOGA—*WCW Monday Nitro* broadcast from the UTC Arena: **Dallas Page** beat **Alex Wright** ... World tag team champs **Harlem Heat** defeated **Greg Valentine** & **Buddy Valentino** ... **Chris Jericho** beat **Dean Malenko** ... **The Giant** beat **Brad Armstrong** ... **Randy Savage** beat **Ron Studd** ... **Rick** & **Scott Steiner** beat **Sting** & **Lex Luger** by disqualification ... **Ric Flair, Arn Anderson, Chris Benoit,** & **Steve McMichael** beat **Kevin Sullivan, Big Bubba Rogers, Meng,** & **The Barbarian.**
(09-02-96)

—Frank Miller

GREENVILLE—All-Pro Wrestling at the Armory: Tag team champions **Blacktop Bully** & **Shadow Warrior** beat **The Temple of Doom** ... **Billy King** beat **Adam Sullivan** by disqualification ... **Dynamite Kid** beat **Chris Powers** ... **Chainz** & **E.Z. Ryder** beat **Rick Savage** & **Chris Powers** ... **David Jericho** beat **Killer Kyle** ... **Rick Kelley, Freddie Rick,** and **Mike Williams** wrestled to a draw in a triangle match ... **Jimmy Valiant** & **Denny Cooley** beat **The Spoilers** ... **The Red Neck Gangstas** & **Bob Armstrong** beat **J.T. Coalminer, Mike Spade,** & **Sam Spade.**
(08-24-96)

—Bill Needham

McMINNVILLE—Tennessee Valley Wrestling Federation at the Fairgrounds: **Jason Valentine** beat **Kid Ego** ... **Miss Brandy** defeated **Sweet Candy** ... **Yoshi Kwan** beat **The Scorpion** ... **Dusty Dotson, Scott Prather,** & **Jailhouse Rocker** wrestled **Kenny, Keith,** & **John Arden** to a double-disqualification ... **Rick Morton** beat **Mike Golden.**
(08-16-96)

—Bill Needham

(Continued on page 52)

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2323	Beatles
2325	Beck
2352	Belly
2382	Better Than Ezra
2444	Big Head Todd/Monsters
4361	Billy Idol
5632	Billy Joel
2462	Biohazard
2561	Bjork
2523	Black Crowes
2524	Black Sabbath
2544	Blind Melon
2582	Blues Traveler
2661	Bon Jovi
2731	Breeders
2766	Brother Cane
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2791	Cry of Love
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9682	Neil Young
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6471	Nirvana
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6332	Offspring
6723	Ozzy Osbourne
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7263	Pantera
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7671	Porno For Pyros
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7745	Primus
1831	Queen
1832	Queensryche
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7232	Radiohead
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7266	Rancid
7832	Rod Stewart
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7652	Rollins Band
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7872	Rusted Root
7261	Santana
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7524	Slayer
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7643	Smithereens
7661	Sonic Youth
7683	Soul Asylum
7682	Soundgarden
7722	Spacehog
7746	Spin Doctors
7826	Stabbing Westward
7831	Steely Dan
6452	Steve Miller
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7842	Sting
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6841	Ted Nugent
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8451	Ugly Kid Joe
8743	Uige Overkill
8262	Van Halen
6341	Vince Neil
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9371	Yes
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arena reports

(Continued from page 50)

TEXAS

DALLAS—WWF at Reunion Arena: **The Bushwhackers** defeated **Justin Bradshaw** & **Zebakiah** ... **Faarooq** beat **Bob Holly** ... **Jose Lothario** defeated **Jim Cornette** ... **The Stalker** beat **Jerry Lawler** ... World tag team champs **The Smokin' Gunns** wrestled **The Grimm Twins** to a double-countout ... **Sid Vicious** defeated **Big Van Vader** ... World champion **Shawn Michaels** beat **Goldust**.
(09-07-96)

—Wally Fernandez

VIRGINIA

ALEXANDRIA—IPWA at the Secret Cove: **Justin St. John** pinned **Lucifer** ... **Jimmy Cicero** defeated **Scotty McKeever** ... Tag team champions **Darkside** won a triangle match against **The Headbangers** and **The Bad Boyz** ... **Sheik Ali Amin** pinned **Adam Flash** ... **Big Slam** defeated **Nikolai Volkoff** by disqualification ... **Cueball Carmichael** & **Johnny Gunn** defeated **Steve Corino** & **Jimmy Cicero**.
(08-23-96)

—Kevin Carson

MARTINSVILLE—AIWF TV taping at the Boxing Center: **Diamond Dave** defeated **The Scorpion** ... **Brian Danzig** beat **Leroy McCoy** ... **Major Havoc** & **Johnny Reb** beat **Major Breakinridge** & **The Unknown Soldier** by countout. After the match, Major Havoc turned against Reb ... **Don Carson** beat **Jackie Anderson** to capture the held-up heavyweight title ... **Rick Deezel** beat **King Cobra**. As the result of a prematch stipulation, Deezel won Cobra's albino python.
(08-17-96)

—Dean Puckett

WEST VIRGINIA

WHEELING—*WWF Monday Night Raw* broadcast and taping at the Civic Center: **Flex Kavana** defeated **David Haskins** ... **Rick Titan** pinned **Frank Stalletto** ... **Mankind** beat **Alex Porteau** by submission ... **The Stalker** pinned **Justin Bradshaw** ... **Frank Stalletto** pinned **Lou Marconi** ... **The Sultan** defeated **Jake Roberts** by submission ... ***In the quarterfinals of a tournament to fill the vacant Intercontinental title:*** **Sid Vicious** pinned **Hunter Hearst Helmsley** ... **Marc Mero** defeated **Steve Austin** by disqualification ... **Farooq** pinned **Savio Vega** ... **Owen Hart** beat **Davey Boy Smith** ... ***In non-tournament bouts:*** **Big Van Vader** pinned **Freddie Joe Floyd** ... **Goldust** won a battle royal to earn a shot at the WWF World title ... World champion **Shawn Michaels** beat **Yokozuna** ... ***In the semifinals of the Intercontinental title tournament:*** **Marc Mero** beat **Owen Hart** ... **Faarooq** beat **Sid Vicious** by disqualification ... **The Undertaker** pinned **Salvatore Sincere** ... **Crush** pinned **Freddie Joe Floyd** ... **Alex Porteau** & **Bob Holly** beat **The Smokin' Gunns** in a non-title match.
(08-19-96)

—John S. Pithers

INTERNATIONAL

CANADA

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA—Canadian Wrestling Federation at the Kent Road School: **The Slammin' Power Rangers** defeated **Bobby Collins** & **Chad Ripley** ... **Todd Bullet** defeated **Caveman Broda** ... **Bobby Jay** pinned **E.Z. Ryder** ... **Robby Royce** defeated **Leatherface** ... **Bugsy Sluggliano** pinned **J.T. Atlas** ... **Spice Richards** defeated junior heavyweight champion **Vance Nevada** to win the title.
(09-07-96)

—Verne May

BLAINVILLE, QUEBEC—Northern Championship Wrestling at the Jeannot Festival (evening card): **The Dream Warriors** beat **Alexander the Magnificent** & **The Rebel** ... **Marcel the Gangster of Love** beat **Dream Killer** ... **Iceman** & **Marc the Grizzly** beat **Jason** & **Golem the Giant**.
(08-31-96)

—Bertrand Hebert

VALLEYFIELD, QUEBEC—Association of Championship Wrestling at the Knights of Columbus Building: **The Black Eagle** beat **The Federalist** ... **Raiden** beat **Kyx** ... **The Bodyguard** beat **Marty Heart** ... **Marcel the Gangster of Love** wrestled to a double-countout with **Marc the Grizzly** ... **The Dream Warriors** defeated **The Mobster** & **Raiden** ... **Steelman** beat **The Bodyguard** ... **Ron the Crazy Goaler** beat **Steve Ace** for the Quebec title.
(08-30-96)

—Bertrand Hebert

ROUSSEAU, ONTARIO—Northern Championship Wrestling at the Muskok Woods Sports Center: **Crazy Eddie** beat **Boris Khrushchev** ... **Marc the Grizzly** beat **Mark Lyons** ... **The Rocker** beat **The Rebel** by disqualification ... **Marc the Grizzly** & **The Rocker** defeated **The Rebel** & **Mark Lyons** ... **Andy Elisson** defeated **Phil Slayer**.
(08-28-96)

—Bertrand Hebert

TORONTO, ONTARIO—WWF at Exhibition Stadium: **Henry** & **Phineas Godwinn** beat **Leif Cassidy** & **Marty Jannetty** ... **Hunter Hearst Helmsley** pinned **Bob Holly** ... **Savio Vega** defeated **Justin Bradshaw** in a Caribbean strap match ... **Jose Lothario** pinned **Jim Cornette** ... **Steve Austin** beat **Marc Mero** by countout ... **Sid Vicious** beat **Big Van Vader** in a lumberjack match ... **Faarooq** beat **Aldo Montoya** ... **Owen Hart** & **Davey Boy Smith** beat World tag team champions **The Smokin' Gunns** by disqualification ... **The Undertaker** beat **Mankind** in a casket match ... World champion **Shawn Michaels** beat **Goldust** in a ladder match.
(08-24-96)

—Steve Argintaru & Steven Ashe

OTTAWA, ONTARIO—Joint NWF/NCW show at the Civic Center (evening card): **Dave Daulton** defeated **The Bruiser** ... **Nikolai Volkoff** & **Jules Strongbow** defeated **The Executioners** ... **Wendi Richter** beat **Angel** ... **Bruiser** won a battle royal, last eliminating **Iceman** ... **Jimmy Snuka** defeated **Metal Maniac**.
(08-17-96)

—Bertrand Hebert

LaSALLE, ONTARIO—Border Cities Wrestling at the Arena: **Dan Severn** beat **Geza Kalman Jr.** ... **Steve Lombardi** defeated **Skull Ganz** ... **Los Rudos** beat **Bobby Clancy** & **Mike Legacy** ... **Bruiser Bedlam** (with **"Handsome" Johnny Bradford**) beat **Doink the Clown** ... **Mickey Doyle** & **Scott D'Amore** defeated **Zip** & **Al "Leif Cassidy" Snow**.
(08-16-96)

—Brad McFarlin

JAPAN

TOKYO—All-Japan at Budokan Hall: **Rusher Kimura** & **Mitsuo Momota** defeated **Haruka Eigen** & **Mighty Inoue** ... **The Patriot** & **Johnny Smith** defeated **Kentaro Shiga** & **Jumbo Tsuruta** ... **Giant Kamala II**, **Dan Kroffat**, & **Jun Izumida** beat **Giant Baba**, **Masao Inoue**, & **Satoru Asako** ... **Gary Albright** beat **Takao Omori** ... **Akira Taue**, **Yoshinari Ogawa**, & **Tamon Honda** beat **Toshiaki Kawada**, **Masa Fuchi**, & **Tsuyoshi Kikuchi** ... Triple Crown champion **Kenta Kobashi** beat **Stan Hansen** ... **Steve Williams** & **Johnny Ace** beat **Mitsuharu Misawa** & **Jun Akiyama** to win the PWF and All-Japan International tag team titles.
(09-05-96)

—Koichi Yoshizawa

YOKOHAMA—Tokyo Pro Wrestling at the Pacifico: **Mr. Ramirez** pinned **El Guerrero** ... **Solare** & **Shigeo Okumura** defeated **Violensia** & **Akihiko Masuda** ... **Kenchi Yamamoto** beat **Shinobu Tamura** ... **Yoji Anjoh** & **The Original Tiger Mask** defeated **Takashi Ishikawa** & **Yoshihiro Takayama** ... **Sabu** (with **The Sheik**) pinned **2 Cold Scorpio** ... **Kishin Kawabata** defeated **King Kong** by disqualification ... **El Dandy** defeated **Gekko** by disqualification ... **The Original Tiger Mask** & **Yoji Anjoh** beat tag team champions **Benkei** & **Abdullah the Butcher** to win the belts.
(08-25-96)

—Koichi Yoshizawa

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY JANUARY

LOUISIANA

SHREVEPORT—NWA at the Municipal Auditorium: **Ted DiBiase** beat **Alex Perez** ... **Sonny King** beat **Bob Slaughter** by disqualification ... **Buck Robley** (substituting for **The Invader**) beat **Calypso Joe** ... **Dick Murdoch** defeated **Killer Karl Kox** by disqualification.
(01-06-76)

—Ida Fabre

NEW YORK

NEW YORK—WWWF at Madison Square Garden: **Chris** & **John Tolos** defeated **Miguel Perez** & **Pedro Morales** in a best-of-three-falls match ... **Kangaroo Roy Heffernan** beat **Gino Brito** ... **Tony Marino** beat **Kangaroo Al Costello** ... **Don McClarity** defeated **Klondike Bill** ... **Tiny Tim** & **Pancho Lopez** beat **Sky Low Low** & **Fuzzy Cupid** in a best-of-three-falls midget match ... **Bobo Brazil** & **Vittorio Apollo** defeated **Gorilla Monsoon** & **Killer Kowalski** ... World champion **Bruno Sammartino** beat **Dr. Jerry Graham**.
(01-20-64)

—Mike Trunk

TEXAS

HOUSTON—WWF Royal Rumble at the Summit: **The Hart Foundation** & **Hacksaw Duggan** beat **Dino Bravo** & **Jacques** & **Raymond Rougeau** in a best-of-three-falls match ... World Women's champion **Rockin' Robin** pinned **Judy Martin** ... **Haku** pinned **Harley Race** ... **Big John Studd** won the inaugural Royal Rumble, last eliminating **Ted DiBiase**.
(01-15-89)

—Dennis Stanley

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1) Rick Martel
2) Nick Bockwinkel
3) Curt Hennig
4) Verne Gagne

The largest crowd ever to witness a pro wrestling show (190,000) was in what city?
1) London, England
2) Toronto, Ontario
3) Pyongyang, North Korea
4) Tokyo, Japan

True or False: Hulk Hogan is the only wrestler to appear on the cover of Sports Illustrated
1) True
2) False

Which of the following cities did NOT host a portion of WrestleMania II?
1) Chicago, Illinois
2) Atlantic City, New Jersey
3) Uniondale, New York
4) Los Angeles, California

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between falls

(Continued from page 5)

The death of legendary brawler Dick Murdoch (pictured in a 1980 match with Bob Backlund) saddened many fans, including Steve Walker, who fondly remembers watching him wrestle two decades ago in Louisiana.

MEMORIES OF MURDOCH

I was very saddened to learn of the death of Dick Murdoch. I remember seeing him wrestle in 1975 in Louisiana, where he was one of the most successful competitors ever. Even though he is now gone, those of us who saw him in action will never forget the colorful career of this tough Texan. "Captain Redneck," you will be missed.

STEVE WALKER
Columbia, MO

NEW WORLD FAN

The New World Order is the best thing going in wrestling today. How many groups today can boast that they have held a combined six WWF and three WCW world titles? Who cares if the NWO is a bunch of thugs? I certainly don't. These guys are the smartest men in wrestling, because they are using WCW's fear to their advantage. The NWO isn't using all of its resources to spread its message, either. It's using WCW's money, since WCW is allowing the NWO to run wild on its TV shows. WCW could easily stop these men by having them barred from the shows, but they don't. So, when you think about it, WCW is partially to blame for sthe damage the NWO is doing. I wish Hulk Hogan and company continued success.

PETER KENNETH
Lansdale, PA

KINDER, GENTLER GOLDUST

*"Deep down inside, you want me on that wall. You need me on that wall." —**A Few Good Men** (1992)*

It's time someone pointed out some of Goldust's good points. Here are a few of my thoughts:

1. I love to hear the movie quotes. Every time he mentions a movie I haven't seen, I write it down so I can rent it. I have yet to be disappointed by a selection. I really love it when Goldust mentions a film that I have already seen, because it brings back great memories.

2. The Goldust persona is an excellent psychological weapon. He has proved that by winning two Intercontinental titles and beating The Undertaker twice on pay-per-views. This persona is a great way for Dustin Rhodes to distance himself from his family name.

3. He is simply a great rulebreak-

er. Ever since his debut in the WWF, he has been on the Most Hated list of your magazine's ratings. He knows how to infuriate people.

Goldust is the man fans love to hate. Goldust ... *"You give it all such a glow. I don't know if it's art, but I like it."* —***Batman*** *(1989).*

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Many fans find Goldust revolting, but not reader Lance Snead. He finds the WWF rulebreaker entertaining and especially enjoys listening to him recite movie lines.

NAME CALLING

What's in a name? Dave Rosenbaum thinks he knows, but I doubt it. In his November 1996 "Steel Cage" column, he belittled people in a sport from which he makes his living. Then he had the nerve to talk about self-respect. As Gorilla Monsoon would say, "Gimme a break!"

It makes me laugh when pencil-pushers like Rosenbaum judge wrestlers by the monikers they choose. "Beef Stew" Lou Marconi, Bo Dacious, and The Prince of Polyester are just a few of the talented independent wrestlers who are very original and entertaining. Unlike other independent guys who rip off the names of established stars, they should be applauded for coming up with such original names, not mocked.

JEREMY COOKE
Huber Heights, OH □

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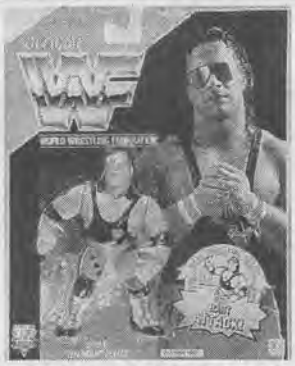

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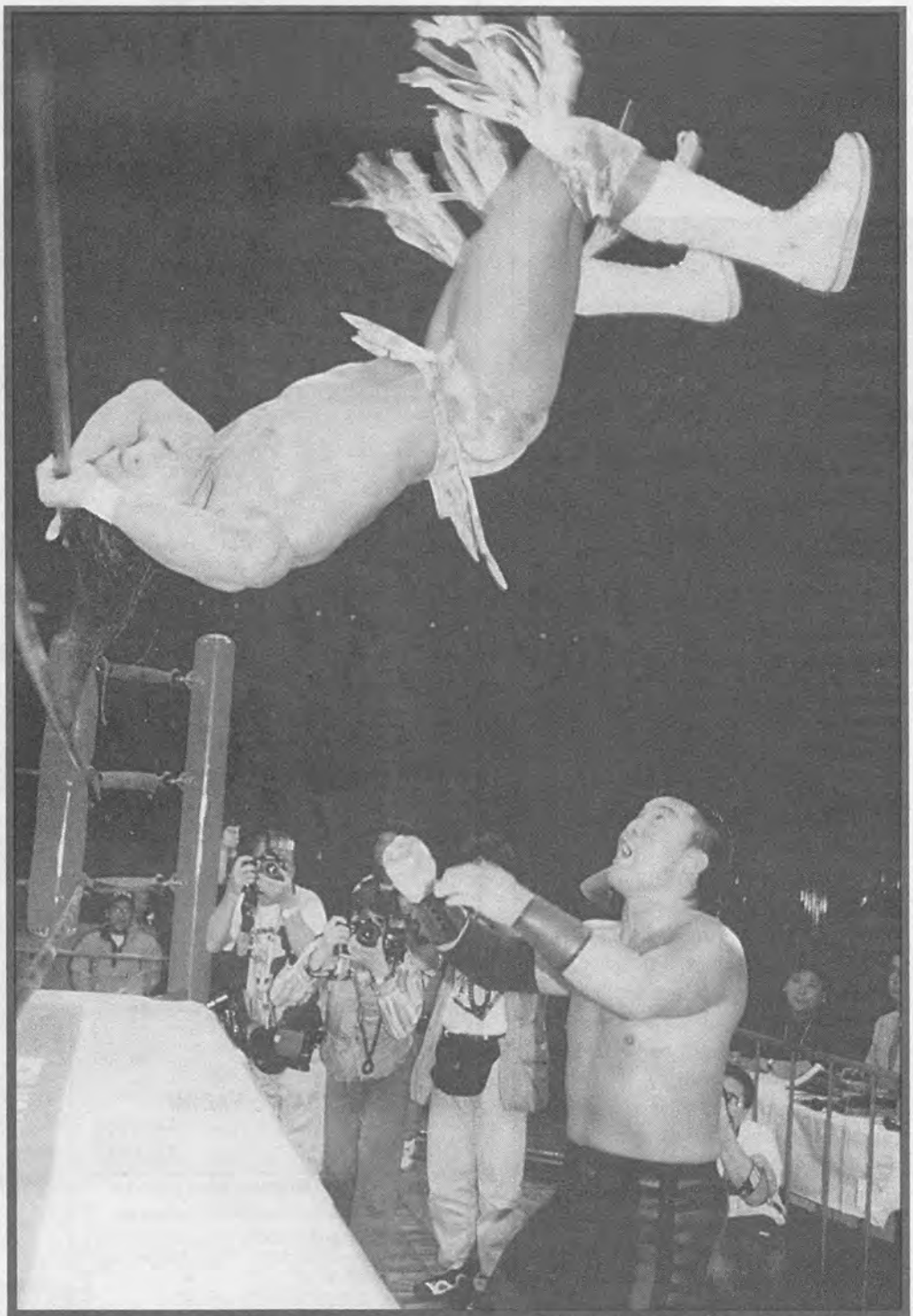
mero

(Continued from page 21)

He also came to Sable's rescue during a series of matches against Steve Austin in August. He lost to "Stone-Cold" via countout several times when he left the ring as Sable was being doggedly pursued by Mankind. His valet was spared injury and humiliation, but Mero walked away with losses every time.

It's not fair to criticize Mero in these instances, because he was looking out for the welfare of someone about whom he cares very deeply. Maybe, though, it's time for him to leave Sable in the dressing room so he can get back to doing what he does best: be a Badd man.

"He's just struggling to find an identity," said WWF expert Thomas Pilliard. "He's trying to be a wildman, and he's also trying to be Sable's protector. On one hand, he's looking to come off as being real macho, but he also wants to be taken seriously as a wrestler. Simply put, he needs to get back to being more like his old self, Johnny B. Badd. Maybe even as Johnny B. Badd the rule-breaker. He had fun wrestling under that name. He was comfortable with that name."



To put it simply, Mero seemed a little more at ease when he was in WCW. He never held anything back. He executed spectacular moves like this in almost every match and truly was a "Wildman" in the ring back then.

We know the Badd man is still inside Marc Mero somewhere. He has to be.

And we know the Badd man would love to wrestle Shawn Michaels.

"Marc Mero, I think, has just about as much pure athletic ability as Michaels, but at times, it looks like he's trying too hard to be like Michaels," said Pilliard. "And if he wants his chance to beat Shawn, he has to be super aggressive."

Watching a match between the two would be like watching two gymnasts thrown in the ring together. Michaels and Mero, in many

ways, are mirror images of each other. Both are technically sound wrestlers and quick. But Michaels has a natural fire that Mero seems to be missing, at least for the moment. If Mero can summon the animal side of his personality, he could get involved in one of the most thrilling rivalries in recent WWF history.

Indeed, the old Johnny B. Badd would present an interesting challenge to "The Heartbreak Kid." Quick, athletic, plenty of stamina, versatile, flamboyant, and even a little mean.

"He needs a game plan first," said Pilliard. "He has to figure out how he plans to wear down and beat opponents before he gets into the ring with them. This guy is at his best when he starts flailing away madly at competitors. He was a very successful amateur boxer, and he could use those skills a little better, I think, in the WWF."

"I think he almost has to switch personalities, or at least summon the more aggressive side of his personality," said one former training partner. "When I watch him now, it looks like he wants to do it, but he just hasn't so far, for whatever reason. I thought he was at his best when he first came into WCW with Teddy Long as his manager. He was so hungry back then."

Mero certainly has the repertoire of moves to rise to the top of the WWF ladder very quickly. Few wrestlers are as agile as he is, and his foot speed allows him to escape perilous situations with ease. He also seems to have a good counter for most finishing moves. What Mero lacks is something that is, for the most part, intangible.

Does that mean he has to become a rulebreaker again? "Absolutely not," said Pilliard. "When he first started in this sport, he didn't have the pure athletic abilities that he has now, so he had to bend the rules. What he needs is to regain that mental attitude, but also maintain his principles."

If there's a moral to this story, it's that good things sometimes happen to bad people. □

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4372/09-96

pg-13

(Continued from page 34)

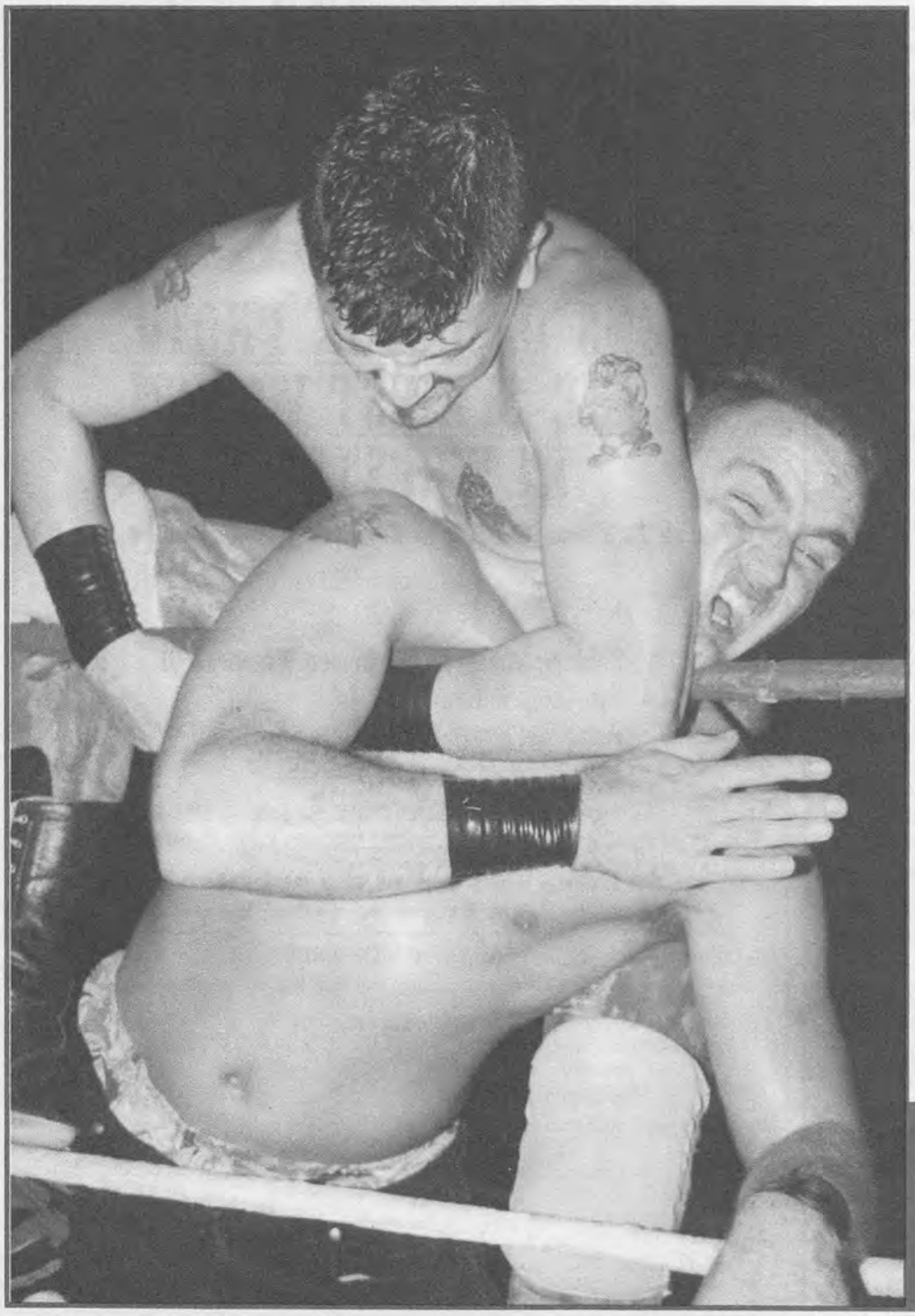
knife on Wolfie and made threats against him in a dressing room.

But I look at March of 1996 as the beginning of the end for PG-13. Their feud with Rich and Gilbert showed no sign of waning. It was the typical "this promotion ain't big enough for both of us" situation. All the violence and hatred between them forced me to sign a loser-leaves-town match. In my heart, I really didn't want to, but I felt it was my duty. That's when Bill Dundee returned and caused Jamie and Wolfie to lose the match.

About a month later, The Cyberpunks entered the USWA. We all knew it was Jamie and Wolfie under masks, but no one could prove it at first. Wolfie, now Fire, and Jamie, now Ice, just couldn't stay away. Again, Bill Dundee wanted them out, so he challenged both to separate loser-leaves-town matches. He beat Ice, but the match with Fire was another story. Bill lost that, but then he returned as the masked American Eagle.

That's where I had to intervene. I used my authority as matchmaker to force both Fire and Eagle to unmask. They did, but not before they made me promise they could stay in the USWA. At that point, I hoped we could all move on.

Wolfie did. He went on to prove that he was a great singles wrestler by defeating Brickhouse Brown for the TV



Jamie Dundee and Wolfie D briefly feuded a few years ago, but this time, they're not having a petty dispute. This is a nasty, ugly, personal feud. Even USWA matchmaker Randy Hales has gotten involved.

title. But Bill still wanted revenge. In a shocking move, he brought back Jamie, who said he wanted the PG-13 name for himself. He even went so far as to steal his former partner's ring attire, including his hubcaps.

I had always hoped that Bill and Jamie would patch up their differences, but not like this. I didn't think that Bill would join his son as a rulebreaker, but I guess I got what I asked for. The Dundees were back together, and they caused more chaos than I could have ever imagined.

I was able to sign a match between Wolfie and Jamie with the stipulation being that the winner could have the rights to the PG-13 name. Wolfie won, but what he does with the name is anyone's guess. Jamie says now that he never wants to hear the name J.C. Ice again. But the feud with the Dundees and their group and Wolfie's clique continues, and yes, I am included in Wolfie's group.

Reluctantly.

Here in the USWA, promoters, referees, and managers take a hands-on approach. I am not afraid to step into the ring and settle things when an executive decision does not work. The Dundees drew me into the fight, so fight is what I will do.

Although I am firmly behind Wolfie in his battle, I am still saddened by the loss of a great tag team. They rarely heard the cheers of the fans, but they used to have my respect and the respect of a lot of other people around here. Part of me still hopes that Jamie Dundee and Wolfie D will be able to patch up their differences someday.

At this point, hope is all that's left from the ruins of PG-13. □

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4371/09-96

(Continued from page 23)

Having been humbled in a series of matches with Malenko, Regal wasn't exactly on a roll when he wrestled Luger for the TV belt on August 20. Nevertheless, he claims he could have beaten Luger even without the NWO's help.

such poor judges of talent. Additionally, they have no respect for common courtesy and common decency. They attack people in parking lots, outside arenas, and such. They spray that awful paint on people. They're barbarians. They have no class.

ROSENBAUM: Well, they do have The Giant now. That's a pretty big talent right there.

REGAL: I'm afraid, Mr. Rosenbaum, that you are confusing sheer size and brute force with talent. I will not deny, however, that the NWO is having a tremendous impact on us all. They've been rather sneaky and treacherous, and very effective. In some ways, they are admirable. They have set goals and are close to achieving them all. But I want nothing to do with them.

RODRIGUEZ: Do you believe they'll succeed in taking over, or even supplanting WCW?

REGAL: I have my doubts about that. I know men like Luger and Ric Flair and Randy Savage fear that possibility. They fell they've been the rulers, so to speak, of WCW, and now their lofty positions are being threatened. They have much at stake. I, on the other hand, have no such concerns. I am less a member of WCW than I am a man who chooses his own path. I am not beholden to WCW, the NWO, nor any other group. I compete for my own honor and glory.

ANDERSON: That's all well and good, but what if your employment were at stake? What if you were prevented from competing in a league controlled by the NWO? Remember, Nash did denigrate your ability.

REGAL: I would never have trouble finding opponents.

ROSENBAUM: You wouldn't make as much money, though, would you?

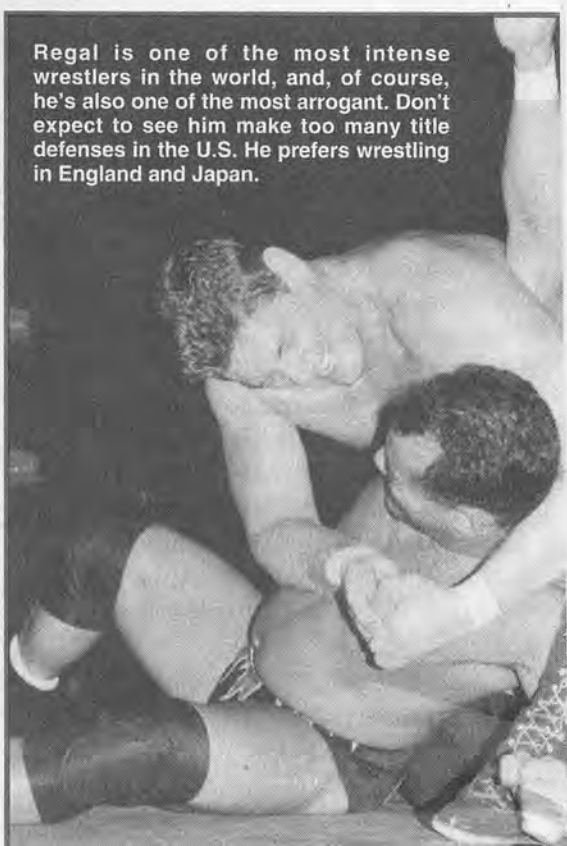
REGAL: Certainly financial considerations are important, but they don't overly concern me. I am a wealthy man. I have been paid great sums of money to defend my championship in my home country. I am what you call a hero there.

RODRIGUEZ: Let me put it this way: If it comes down to an all-out war between the NWO and WCW, whose side are you on?

REGAL: I will do whatever is in my best interest. If that sounds like I'm avoiding the issue, so be it. As I said, I feel beholden to no one or no group. This so-called war involves extremely powerful interests, but in many respects, it is absolute nonsense. I see no point in it. Nash and Hall may have aided me in some small way, but one day those loyal to WCW may do the same.

ANDERSON: You do have a strong connection to WCW if only because you're the TV champion. Why are you so intent on defending the belt in England and Japan?

REGAL: Because in those countries I am treated with the proper respect. These filthy Americans don't appreciate the effort that goes into winning and defending this championship. They call me arrogant. I am not arrogant. I am confident in my abilities, and I have reason to be. Why waste my time defending against competitors who have such little respect for me?



Regal is one of the most intense wrestlers in the world, and, of course, he's also one of the most arrogant. Don't expect to see him make too many title defenses in the U.S. He prefers wrestling in England and Japan.

ROSENBAUM: One man I think a lot of people would like to see you defend the belt against is Dean Malenko. He got the better of you in some matches this summer. I'm surprised you haven't given him a shot at the belt.

REGAL: I respect Mr. Malenko, but if you think he would beat me so easily, you are mistaken. If he were so confident that he could defeat me, why has he not pursued a title match with me? You give him too much credit.

RODRIGUEZ: I think Bobby Eaton is a man who'd treat the TV title with honor. He's held it before. Why don't you give him any shots?

REGAL: Ah, yes. Mr. Eaton. I should have known that chap's name would surface during this conversation.

ANDERSON: Well, doesn't he deserve a match?

REGAL:That commoner deserves nothing! As Earl Robert Eaton, he had an opportunity for immortality. He finally had made himself into a respectable member of society, with my great help. He was, I believed, a true, loyal member of The Blue Bloods. I saved him from the life of—I believe the word is hillbilly—and he returned to that life. He wasted my time and effort. More importantly, he disgraced me, and for that I can never forgive him.

ROSENBAUM: You must admit, though, he is a worthy opponent. He's defeated Squire David Taylor, one of your good friends, several times.

REGAL: Occasions that have given me an additional reason to be wary of WCW: Some of the referees are horrendous. No doubt Eaton is a man of some skill. I trained him well. However, he is no match for me. He had better wish that he does not have to step into the ring with me. Questionable calls against Squire David have allowed him to attain a level of respectability.

RODRIGUEZ: But with Eaton now gone, can Taylor be next?

REGAL: Thank goodness Squire David remains loyal to our cause. Soon we'll rid ourselves of Eaton's threat, and I will be able to devote myself fully to defending the TV championship, in Japan and everywhere.

ANDERSON: Considering all that's been going on lately, you should enjoy holding the belt while you can.

REGAL: Let them wage their war. I'll stay above the fray. And when they've concluded, I'll reap the benefits. □

"Now how am I going to get my deposit back on that chair?"

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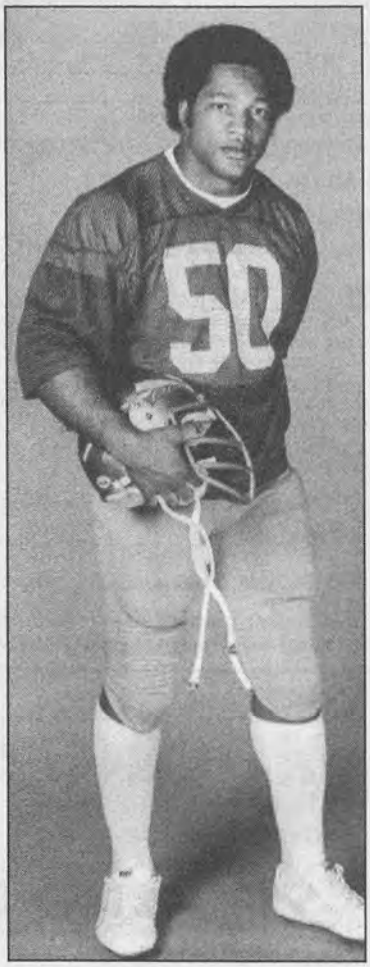


"INTRODUCING THE NOSEGUARD FOR FLORIDA STATE, NUMBER 50 ... FAAROOQ?!"

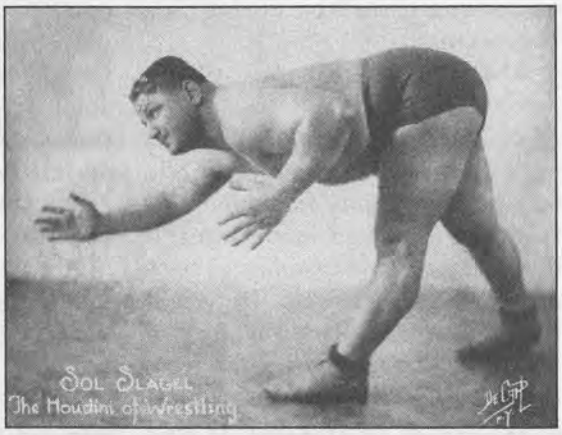
Yes, the man wearing the football uniform in this picture taken in 1979 is now known as Faarooq in the WWF. Ron Simmons was a star noseguard for the Seminoles, finishing ninth in Heisman Trophy voting in one of his seasons there. He went on to play in both the USFL and CFL before turning to wrestling. He must have enjoyed wearing a helmet. Doesn't that headgear he wears in the ring now look similar to one?

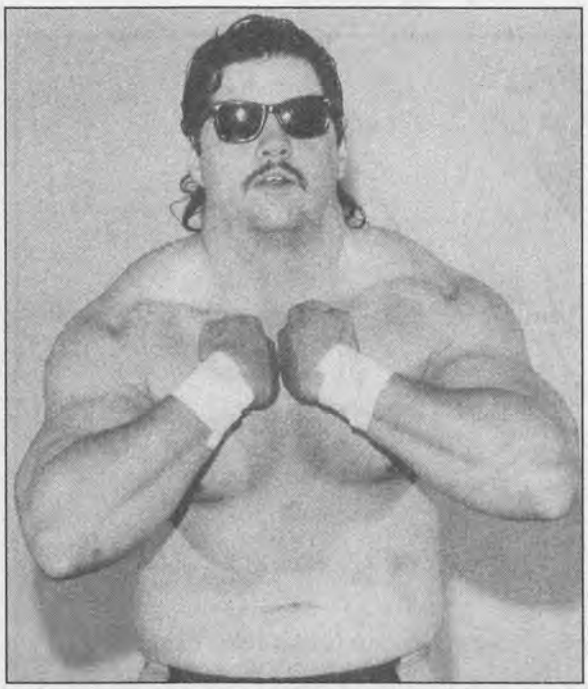
OKAY, SO HE'S NO REY MISTERIO JR.

When Pat Flanagan wanted desperately to get his hands on Yvon Robert during one match, he did not dive over the ropes to get at him, he ... well ... he just sort of laid across the ropes and took some swings at him. Needless to say, none of today's great aerial wrestlers copied Flanagan's style.

"SOL SLAGEL ... NICE TO MEET YOU"

No, this wasn't Mr. Slagel's way of shaking hands—it was him sizing up an opponent before a match. Why did people call Sol Slagel "the Houdini of wrestling"? Well, maybe because you would have to work some magic to get yourself into a position like this and still be able to walk around.





HE'S NO GEEK

If he took off his glasses, you'd recognize this man. He's a tag team wrestler in the WWF who thinks he's the coolest guy to appear on national TV since Greg Brady of The Brady Bunch. Or something like that. He's the Rocker who thinks he's better than Shawn Michaels, but has yet to prove it. That's right, it's Leif Cassidy. This picture was taken early in Cassidy's career, when he was wrestling for the Midwest Wrestling Federation as plain-old Al Snow.

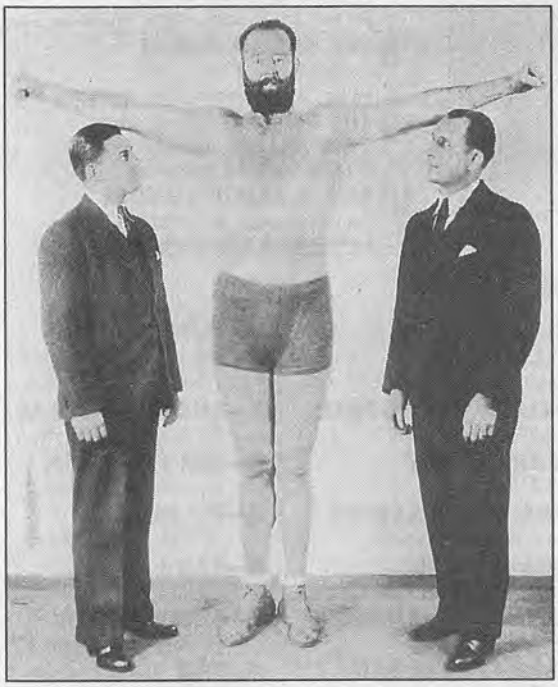
*Every other month, **Pro Wrestling Illustrated** will pore through its massive photo collection to bring you some of the most unique photographs the mat world has ever seen!*

WATCH OUT— HE CAN REALLY DO SOME DAMAGE WITH THAT ... THAT ... WHATEVER YOU CALL THE MOVE THAT HE'S DOING

It's difficult to tell who's attacking whom in this picture from a match between Georges Gordienko (left) and Dino Bravo in March 1973 in Montreal. Gordienko seems to have Bravo pretty well tied up, but the strain in his face makes it look as if he's in some pain, too.

"JUST TELL ME WHERE IT HURTS"

Becoming a fan favorite was a painful ordeal for "Superfly" Jimmy Snuka in the WWF back in 1982. When he severed his ties with Capt. Lou Albano, he was brutally attacked by his former manager, as well as Fred Blassie and Ray Stevens. Snuka suffered serious neck injuries as the result of several Stevens piledrivers, and his face was left a bloody mess. His doctors were left with a lot of work to do.



A HUMAN CHINUP BAR

John Sullivan is one of the least-known 7' wrestlers in history. If he were wrestling today, he'd probably be a star in somebody's federation. The two men flanking him sure seem impressed by his size. Maybe they were aspiring wrestling promoters.

IT'S NOT EASY STAYING SO GORGEOUS

So you thought men like Gorgeous George Jr. just got up in the morning looking beautiful? He might have told people that, but one of our photographers caught up with him at a hair stylist in Beverly Hills in 1974. It took a lot of hours to get those blond curls looking just right.

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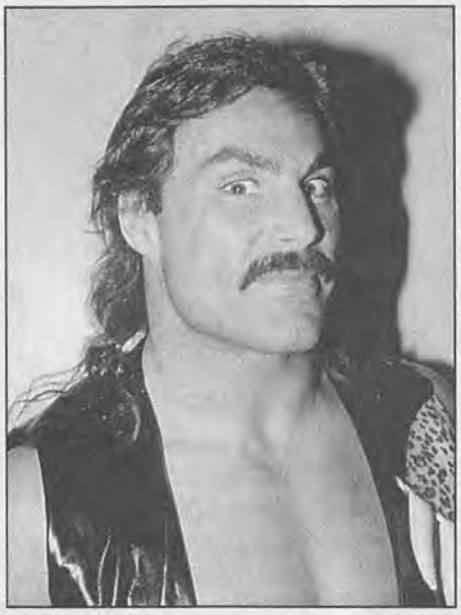
PWI's Top 10



Marc Mero

TOP 10

1 SHAWN MICHAELS
234, San Antonio, TX
(1) WWF World champion

2 THE GIANT
430, parts unknown
(2) No. 2 contender: WCW World title

3 MARC MERO
235, Buffalo, NY
(-) WWF Intercontinental champion

4 SID VICIOUS
318, West Memphis, AR
(-) No. 8 contender: WWF World title

5 STING
260, Venice Beach, CA
(5) No. 3 contender: WCW World title

6 BIG VAN VADER
450, Denver, CO
(9) No. 4 contender: WWF World title

7 REY MISTERIO JR.
140, San Diego, CA
(7) WCW cruiserweight champion

8 STEVE AUSTIN
241, Dallas, TX
(-) No. 2 contender: WWF World title

9 RAVEN
235, Short Hills, NJ
(-) ECW heavyweight champion

10 THE UNDERTAKER
328, parts unknown
(6) No. 7 contender: WWF World title

TAG TEAMS

1 OWEN HART & DAVEY BOY SMITH
Combined weight: 472 pounds
(-) WWF World tag team champions

2 PUBLIC ENEMY
Combined weight: 583 pounds
(-) WCW World tag team champions

3 HARLEM HEAT
Combined weight: 550 pounds
(1) No. 1 contenders: WCW World tag title

4 HENRY & PHINEAS GODWINN
Combined weight: 531 pounds
(4) No. 1 contenders: WWF World tag title

5 THE SMOKIN' GUNNS
Combined weight: 465 pounds
(2) No. 2 contenders: WWF World tag title

6 THE NASTY BOYS
Combined weight: 585 pounds
(8) No. 2 contenders: WCW World tag title

7 SCOTT HALL & KEVIN NASH
Combined weight: 646 pounds
(6) No. 3 contenders: WCW World tag title

8 THE GRIMM TWINS
Combined weight: 517 pounds
(-) No. 3 contenders: WWF World tag title

9 THE GANGSTAS
Combined weight: 456 pounds
(7) ECW tag team champions

10 BILL & JAMIE DUNDEE
Combined weight: 440 pounds
(-) USWA tag team champions

WCW

World Champion:
HULK HOGAN
(C) 275, Venice Beach, CA

1—RIC FLAIR
(1) 243, Minneapolis, MN
2—THE GIANT
(2) 430, parts unknown
3—STING
(5) 260, Venice Beach, CA
4—RANDY SAVAGE
(6) 237, Sarasota, FL
5—LEX LUGER
(7) 265, Chicago, IL
6—REY MISTERIO JR.
(4) 140, San Diego, CA
7—CHRIS BENOIT
(10) 218, Edmonton, Alberta
8—CHRIS JERICHO
(8) 225, Vancouver, British Columbia
9—KONNAN
(-) 237, Mexico City, Mexico
10—DEAN MALENKO
(-) 216, Tampa, FL

WWF

World Champion:
SHAWN MICHAELS
(C) 234, San Antonio, TX

1—MARC MERO
(8) 235, Buffalo, NY
2—STEVE AUSTIN
(7) 241, Dallas, TX
3—GOLDUST
(1) 254, Austin, TX
4—BIG VAN VADER
(4) 450, Denver, CO
5—FAAROOQ
(5) 260, Perry, GA
6—MANKIND
(6) 277, Truth or Consequences, NM
7—THE UNDERTAKER
(2) 328, parts unknown
8—SID VICIOUS
(3) 318, West Memphis, AR
9—SAVIO VEGA
(-) 260, Vega Alta, Puerto Rico
10—JUSTIN BRADSHAW
(-) 309, Roscoe, TX

USWA

USWA Champion:
JERRY LAWLER
(C) 234, Memphis, TN

1—BRIAN CHRISTOPHER
(1) 230, Memphis, TN
2—MARK HENRY
(-) 413, Austin, TX
3—VAMPIRE WARRIOR
(-) 256, parts unknown
4—BILL DUNDEE
(8) 219, Melbourne, Australia
5—JESSE JAMES ARMSTRONG
(-) 240, Marietta, GA
6—FLASH FLANAGAN
(9) 221, Detroit, MI
7—WOLFIE D
(6) 250, parts unknown
8—JAMIE DUNDEE
(3) 221, Memphis, TN
9—BART SAWYER
(10) 231, Portland, OR
10—MIKE SAMPLES
(4) 252, Indianapolis, IN

ECW

ECW Champion:
RAVEN
(C) 235, Short Hills, NJ

1—SHANE DOUGLAS
(1) 223, Pittsburgh, PA
2—THE SANDMAN
(3) 244, Philadelphia, PA
3—PIT BULL II
(2) 231, Philadelphia, PA
4—SABU
(6) 220, Bombay
5—TERRY GORDY
(9) 289, Chattanooga, TN
6—TAZ
(4) 248, Red Hook, NY
7—TOMMY DREAMER
(5) 245, Yonkers, NY
8—BRIAN LEE
(7) 251, Los Angeles, CA
9—ROB VAN DAM
(8) 227, Battle Creek, MI
10—LOUIE SPICOLLI
(-) 248, Los Angeles, CA

OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue. while (C) indicates the wrestler was champion in that category last issue.

MOST POPULAR

1 SHAWN MICHAELS
234, San Antonio, TX
Last issue: No. 1 Most Popular

2 RANDY SAVAGE
237, Sarasota, FL
Last issue: No. 6 Most Popular

3 LEX LUGER
265, Chicago, IL
Last issue: No. 3 Most Popular

4 SID VICIOUS
318, West Memphis, AR
Last issue: No. 5 Most Popular

5 THE UNDERTAKER
328, parts unknown
Last issue: No. 4 Most Popular

6 STING
260, Venice Beach, CA
Last issue: No. 2 Most Popular

7 MARC MERO
235, Macon, GA
Last issue: No. 7 Most Popular

8 SAVIO VEGA
260, Vega Alta, Puerto Rico
Last issue: No. 10 Most Popular

9 REY MISTERIO JR.
140, San Diego, CA
Last issue: No. 8 Most Popular

10 JAKE ROBERTS
253, Stone Mountain, GA
Last issue: unrated

MOST HATED

1 HULK HOGAN
275, Venice Beach, CA
Last issue: No. 1 Most Hated

2 MANKIND
277, Truth or Consequences, NM
Last issue: No. 3 Most Hated

3 SCOTT HALL
290, Miami, FL
Last issue: No. 4 Most Hated

4 BIG VAN VADER
450, Denver, CO
Last issue: No. 9 Most Hated

5 KEVIN NASH
356, Detroit, MI
Last issue: No. 5 Most Hated

6 FAAROOQ
260, Perry, GA
Last issue: No. 6 Most Hated

7 THE GIANT
430, parts unknown
Last issue: No. 2 Most Hated

8 JERRY LAWLER
234, Memphis, TN
Last issue: No. 8 Most Hated

9 GOLDUST
254, Austin, TX
Last issue: No. 7 Most Hated

10 RAVEN
235, Short Hills, NJ
Last issue: No. 10 Most Hated

For period ended September 30, 1996

CUMULATIVE RATINGS

These ratings are based on the past 10 issues of this magazine. We have examined our ratings for each of these issues in our Top 10 and Tag Team categories only, and assigned each position a point value: 10 points for a first-place rating, nine for second place, and so on. The point values for all wrestlers in the past 10 issues have been compiled, with a possible maximum of 100 points. Each issue we'll present the top five finishers in each category. While our regular ratings reflect the past month, these cumulative ratings give an indication of wider trends in the sport.

SINGLES

1—SHAWN MICHAELS ..... 88 points
2—THE GIANT ..... 61 points
3—THE UNDERTAKER ..... 50 points
4—RIC FLAIR ..... 45 points
5—STING ..... 45 points

TAG TEAMS

1—LEX LUGER & STING ..... 68 points
2—THE SMOKIN' GUNNS ..... 60 points
3—HARLEM HEAT ..... 59 points
4—SKIP & ZIP ..... 57 points
5—RICK & SCOTT STEINER ..... 51 points

NEW JAPAN

IWGP Champion:
SHINYA HASHIMOTO
(C) 287, Gisu, Japan

1—KENSUKE SASAKI
(3) 233, Tokyo, Japan
2—MASA CHONO
(4) 235, Tokyo, Japan
3—KURASAWA
(-) 242, Tokyo, Japan
4—RIKI CHOSHU
(1) 246, Yamaguchi, Japan
5—THE GREAT MUTA
(6) 245, Tokyo, Japan
6—HIROYOSHI TENZAN
(7) 270, Tokyo, Japan
7—ANIMAL
(-) 285, Chicago, IL
8—DEAN MALENKO
(-) 216, Tampa, FL
9—SATOSHI KOJIMA
(2) 223, Tokyo, Japan
10—SHINJIRO OTANI
(-) 215, Yokohama, Japan

ALL-JAPAN

Triple Crown Champion:
KENTA KOBASHI
(C) 261, Tokyo, Japan

1—AKIRA TAUE
(2) 265, Tokyo, Japan
2—TOSHIAKI KAWADA
(-) 245, Tizhigi, Japan
3—MITSUHARU MISAWA
(3) 228, Saitama, Japan
4—STAN HANSEN
(1) 322, Borger, TX
5—JUN AKIYAMA
(5) 230, Hiroshima, Japan
6—DAN KROFFAT
(-) 232, Montreal, Quebec
7—ROB VAN DAM
(-) 227, Battle Creek, MI
8—THE PATRIOT
(-) 251, Columbia, SC
9—DORY FUNK JR.
(-) 250, Amarillo, TX
10—TAKAO OMORI
(7) 221, Tokyo, Japan

AAA: AAA Champion—Konnan; **1**—Rey Misterio Jr.; **2**—Juventud Guerrera; **3**—Super Calo; **4**—Psicosis; **5**—La Parka; **6**—Ultimo Dragon; **7**—Perro Aguayo; **8**—Pierroth Jr.; **9**—Cien Caras; **10**—Jerry Estrada.
ACW: ACW Champion—T. Rantula; **1**—Rick Martel; **2**—Brick Bronsky; **3**—Tito Santana; **4**—Johnny Graham; **5**—Frank Stalletto; **6**—Lord Zoltan; **7**—Reckless Youth; **8**—Glen Osbourne; **9**—Race Richards III; **10**—Johnny Gunn.
CWA: CWA Champion—Kevin Sullivan; **1**—Tony Rumble; **2**—Bam Bam Bigelow; **3**—Devon Storm; **4**—El Mascarado; **5**—Jimmy Snuka; **6**—Vic Steamboat; **7**—King Kong Bundy; **8**—Ace Darling; **9**—Hugh Morris; **10**—Knuckles Nelson.
NAASW: NAASW Champion—Colorado Kid; **1**—Brian Christopher; **2**—Bill Dundee; **3**—Jerry Lawler; **4**—Ron McClarity; **5**—Bart Sawyer; **6**—Charlie Parker; **7**—Reggie Montgomery; **8**—Giant Warrior; **9**—Koko B. Ware; **10**—Shaw Williams.
PCW: PCW Champion—Mark Mest; **1**—Troy Mest; **2**—Diablos Macabre; **3**—Lance Diamond; **4**—Freight Train Jones; **5**—Boogie Woogie Brown; **6**—Cheetah Master; **7**—Ace Darling; **8**—The Cremator; **9**—Maxx Crimson; **10**—Race Richards III.
PWA: PWA Champion—The Hater; **1**—Horace the Psychopath; **2**—J.B. Trask; **3**—Nailz; **4**—Lenny Lane; **5**—Charlie Norris; **6**—Dan Jesser; **7**—Kenny Jay; **8**—Wellington Wilkinson; **9**—The Mangler; **10**—Blacktop Bully.
PWF: PWF Champion—George South; **1**—Carolina Dreamer; **2**—Italian Stallion; **3**—Madd Maxxine; **4**—Terry Austin; **5**—Cruel Connection II; **6**—Russian Assassin II; **7**—Baby Huey; **8**—Star Ryder; **9**—Tyrone Knox; **10**—Chris Hamrick.
WWA: WWA Champion—Jim McPherson; **1**—Chuck Sloan; **2**—Jimmy Snuka; **3**—Bud Licious; **4**—Metal Maniac; **5**—Icon; **6**—Stryker; **7**—Rodney Farr; **8**—Pat the Crippler; **9**—The Mummy; **10**—John Rotten.

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating over 200 wrestlers in 19 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important–and respected–ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

Tag team turmoil. Where have all the good young teams gone? As you can tell from our ratings section, most of the top 10 tag teams come from WCW this issue, and other federations seem to be hurting in that area.

First of all, in the WWF, **The Bodydonnas** have officially split up. **Zip** is focusing on training young wrestlers and only plans to wrestle occasionally on his own. His former partner **Skip**, meanwhile, plans to alter his persona and start pursuing singles titles again (Remember, as **Chris Candido**, Skip once held the NWA heavyweight title).

That's one team that had a lot of long-term potential that's now gone; could **The Smokin' Gunns** be next? Many experts warned them that they were setting themselves up for a huge fall when they agreed to take **Sunny** on as their manager, and it's now looking more and more like they were right. They were much better off as fan favorites, and it may take a long time for them to get back to the high level at which they were wrestling in their pre-Sunny days.

The Eliminators

PG-13 was arguably the most promising young team ever to come out of the USWA, and now that duo is gone, too. Former partners **Wolfie D** and **J.C. Ice** are now doing battle in what is currently the USWA's hottest feud. The rift between those two young men is growing wider by the day.

Finally, maybe the most talented of all the teams mentioned here so far, **The Eliminators**. **John Kronus** and **Perry Saturn** honed their skills in Japan for many years (and briefly held the USWA tag team championship in the spring of 1994) before joining ECW last year. They were an immediate hit. They weren't popular with the fans, but they were treated with the respect they deserved. Even **Rick** and **Scott Steiner**, who were competing in ECW at the time, said they saw a lot of potential in The Eliminators.

But since Kronus and Saturn lost the ECW tag team belts to their arch-rivals, **The Gangstas**, this summer, things haven't been going well for them. They've struggled in rematches with **New Jack** and **Mustafa Saed**, and at the same time, they have become involved in a feud with **Terry Gordy** and **Steve Williams**.

Insiders say Kronus and Saturn are starting to point fingers of blame at each other for their struggles and aren't getting along as well as they used to. They've even tried wrestling the occasional singles match. A split could be imminent, and that would be too bad, because The Eliminators, who have slipped out of the ratings for this issue, are a very talented team. They would fit in well in either WCW or the WWF.

So many fans continue to complain that there aren't enough good young teams in wrestling anymore. That's partially because so many of them are finding reasons to break up.

He could have been so popular. If you have looked at our Most Hated rankings from any of the last few issues, you've probably come to the conclusion that if a man wants to be listed high on that list, all he has to do is join the **New World Order**.

The Giant

Well, you'd be right. The actions of all the members of the NWO have been so heinous that we can't help but give **Hulk Hogan**, **Scott Hall**, **Kevin Nash**, and now **The Giant** "prime" spots. In the case of The Giant, it really is a shame. Though he has been a rulebreaker during his entire stint in WCW, it was quite obvious that he had the potential to be a dominant *fan favorite*. Even when he was terrorizing Hogan the fan favorite, some people cheered him. And when he choke-slammed manager **Kevin Sullivan** after a misunderstanding earlier this year, the fans went crazy and cheered him loudly.

But then he returned to the good graces of Sullivan and **Jimmy Hart**. All the while, though, it seemed like fans were just waiting for him to turn full-fledged fan favorite. Now it doesn't appear that will happen anytime soon. Since he joined the NWO, the fans are booing him more than ever, and he deserves it. We hope he enjoys being ranked in the top five of our Most Hated list, because he could be stuck there for quite a while.

Until next month ... If you have any questions or comments regarding our ratings, we want to see them. Write to: "Ratings Analysis," c/o PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED, Box 1148, Fort Washington, PA 19034. □

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[NOTE: Cover stories noted in boldface.]

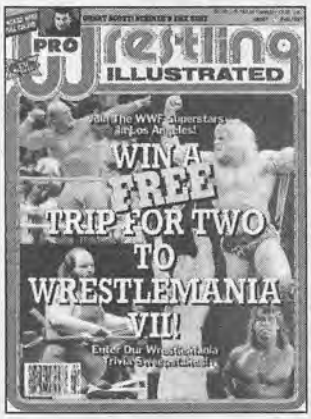
February 1988/CENTERFOLD: Ronnie Garvin. **Savage & Elizabeth,** Garvin, Von Erichs, Freebirds.

April 1989/CENTERFOLD: Rick Steiner. **Randy Savage,** Ted Turner, Richter, Paul E., Powers of Pain.

December 1990/CENTERFOLD: Sting. **New WWF Blood,** Four Horsemen, Kerry, Doom, Gilbert, Slaughter.

January 1991/CENTERFOLD: Kerry Von Erich. **WWF vs. NWA,** Hogan, Hansen, Sting, Sherri & Warrior.

February 1991/CENTERFOLD: 1991 calendar. **WrestleMania,** Vicious, DiBiase-Rhodes, Steiner, Power & Glory.



May 1991/CENTERFOLD: Arn Anderson. **Hulk Hogan,** Rude, Flair-Sting, Thesz.

June 1991/CENTERFOLD: Hacksaw Duggan. **Hulk Hogan,** Cactus, Flair, Nasty Boys, Steiner.

January 1993/CENTERFOLD: Jeff Jarrett. **Flair/Summerslam,** Simmons by Bowden, Von Erich interview.

February 1993/CENTERFOLD: Curt Hennig. **Ramon,** Snuka-Muraco, Rude, Rhodes, Roberts interview.

April 1993/CENTERFOLD: Barry Windham. **Steiners,** Backlund, Sting-Muta, Hawk-Sasaki.

November 1993/CENTERFOLD: The Steiners. **WCW Midyear Report,** Doink, Funk-Gilbert, Race, Yokozuna.

January 1994/CENTERFOLD: Jerry Lawler. **Doink,** Nasty Boys, Steiners, Cornette, Vicious.

May 1994/CENTERFOLD: Tatanka. **Yokozuna-Luger,** Flair-Vader, Heenan, WrestleMania retrospective.

July 1994/CENTERFOLD: Rick Steamboat. **Razor Ramon,** Flair-Regal, Cactus, Lawler, Yokozuna workout.

August 1994/CENTERFOLD: Doink & Dink. **Bret Hart/WrestleMania X,** Steiners, Albano, steroid trial.

November 1994/CENTERFOLD: Randy Savage. **Hogan In WCW,** Cactus, Yokozuna, Lawler, Michaels, Jake.

Winter 1994/CENTERFOLD: Terry Funk. **Hulkamania Wild Again,** McMahon, Vicious, AAA, Flair.

January 1995/CENTERFOLD: Razor Ramon. **Tatanka,** Hogan, Alundra, ECW vs. NWA, Brian Lee.

February 1995/CENTERFOLD: Johnny B. Badd. **WCW Civil War,** Pillman & Austin, Abdullah, Bret Hart.

April 1995/CENTERFOLD: Sabu. **WWF Title Turmoil,** Hogan, Cornette, Diesel, Alundra, Rhodes.

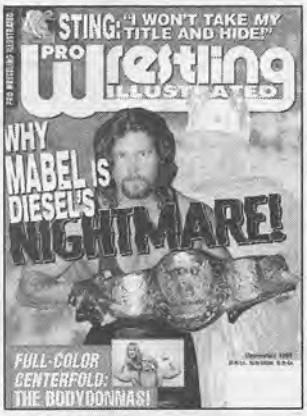
May 1995/CENTERFOLD: Sting. **Diesel,** Savage, Sabu, Hogan-Beefcake, Vader, Owen Hart.

July 1995/CENTERFOLD: Bam Bam Bigelow. **Hulk Hogan,** Sullivan, USWA blood, Yokozuna, revitalize the WWF.

August 1995/CENTERFOLD: Big Van Vader. **Women In Wrestling,** Rottens, Sting-Hogan, Road Warriors.

October 1995/CENTERFOLD: Harlem Heat. **Razor Ramon,** ideal WWF champ, Flair, Savage, Orndorff.

November 1995/CENTERFOLD: Hulk Hogan. **Summerslam,** Vader, Michaels, Backlund, North Korea, ECW rules.



December 1995/CENTERFOLD: Bodydonnas. **Diesel-Mabel,** Sting, Yokozuna, Savio, Regal-Eaton, Lawler-LeDuc.

January 1996/CENTERFOLD: Arn Anderson. **WWF vs. WCW,** Diesel & Shawn, Luger, Summerslam.

February 1996/CENTERFOLD: Shawn Michaels. **Randy Savage,** Hogan, Gangstas-Public Enemy, Austin.

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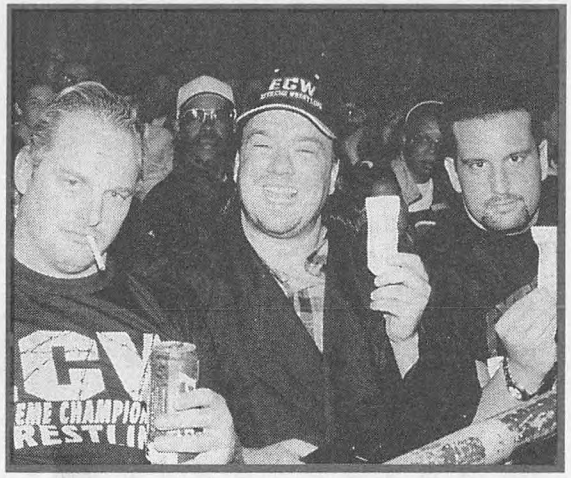
VOLUME XVIII, No. 1 JANUARY 1997

WRESTLING ENQUIRER

ECW WRESTLERS INVADE THE WWF!

Sandman, Taz, Others Disrupt Two Shows



The Sandman, Paul E. Dangerously, and Tommy Dreamer all had front row tickets to the WWF's In Your House X and made their presence known. The threat of an all-out ECW-WWF war seems to have passed, though.

By BRANDI MANKIEWICZ

HERSHEY, PA—ECW and the WWF appeared to be on the verge of an all-out interpromotional war in September after several ECW stars disrupted both the In Your House Mind Games pay-per-view and a live broadcast of *WWF Monday Night Raw*, but now the ECW contingent says it was just out to deliver a message.

"Philly is our town," The Sandman said days after the IYH show in that city. "When you come into ECW territory, you're going to hear from us and our fans."

Paul E. Dangerously, Tommy Dreamer, and Sandman all bought front row seats for the pay-per-view and made attempts to incite the crowd, a portion of which started loud pro-ECW chants. Sandman even got involved in the Savio Vega-Justin Bradshaw Caribbean strap match. While the two combatants were brawling outside the ring, Sandman spit beer in Vega's face, then smashed a beer can against his own forehead as the fans around him cheered.

Shortly thereafter, the ECW group was asked to leave, which it eventually did. Also spotted in the crowd that night were Taz, Perry Saturn of The Eliminators, and Bubba Ray Dudley.

The next night at *Raw*, Taz and his manager, Bill Alfonso, made their way through the crowd during a tag team match and held up an ECW sign that read, "Sabu fears Taz." They, too, were ushered away from ringside.

"They might be hearing from us again," said Taz. "They better be careful."

Luna's Lunacy Shaking Up USWA

By DAVE LENKER

MEMPHIS, TN—Luna Vachon has been more unstable than ever since she rejoined the USWA. Now not only is she demanding to face top-level *male* competition, she has been biting the necks of some of the male wrestlers she has wrestled.

Though she has not had much success in one-on-one matches with Miss Texas, she has done some damage against some of the USWA's male preliminary grapplers, namely Tony Meyers and Ripley Primm.

She did her best impression of a vampire recently when she bit Meyers' neck. She did the same to Primm a week later after pinning him. After viciously attacking Primm before the bell that day, she DDT'd him and applied a stomach claw and finished him off. Before Primm could recover and leave the ring, she bit him.

"I want these men to have something to remember me by," Luna said. "Now give me Brian Christopher, Wolfie D, and some of the rest."

As of press time, no top male USWA wrestler had agreed to wrestle Luna. She made the 1995 "*PWI* 500" by virtue of a victory over Stevie Richards in ECW.

Luna Vachon has taken to biting the necks of some of the USWA wrestlers in order to attract attention. She wants to wrestle the top men there.

Misterio Challenges Konnan

By ANDY RODRIGUEZ

WINSTON-SALEM, NC—Once the best of friends in Mexico's AAA, Rey Misterio Jr. and Konnan now appear headed toward a showdown in WCW, as Misterio is not happy with Konnan's recent attitude change and decision to join the Dungeon of Doom.

"I've been trying to talk Konnan about this for a long time now," Misterio said. "He says he has no time. He says he has his own business to take care of and that I should worry about mine. This is not the man I used to know in Mexico. Something happened to him, and maybe the only way I can get his attention is by beating him in the ring. I want a match with him."

Ironically, it was Konnan who had a lot to do with getting Misterio a chance to compete in WCW. When he heard WCW promoters were interested in Misterio, he helped them set up a meeting with him, and now Misterio is the WCW cruiserweight champion.

"I ain't afraid of Rey Misterio," said Konnan. "If he wants a match with me, he can have one just as soon as I get the time."

Douglas Out To Break Necks

By LIZ HUNTER

PHILADELPHIA—Shane Douglas has yet to express any remorse over the fact that he broke the neck (and most likely ended the wrestling career) of Pit Bull I during a July 13 ECW match. In fact, he says it is now his goal to break the neck of Pit Bull II and any other wrestler who dares to challenge him.

"Every single man who steps through the ropes to face 'The Franchise' has to know in the back of his mind that that threat is there," Douglas said. "They have to know that one DDT or one neckbreaker is all it takes, and I know just how to do it. This threat isn't only aimed toward The Pit Bulls. Everyone in ECW better take what I say very seriously."

Pit Bull I suffered the injury when Douglas DDT'd him on a metal chair. Two months later, Douglas used several neckbreakers on Louie Spicolli during a September 14 match; Spicolli left the ring on a stretcher. The same was true for ECW broadcaster Lance Wright, whom Douglas attacked after Wright got into an argument with ring announcer Joel Gertner.

AROUND THE GLOBE

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN

Just days after he had a benign tumor removed from his brain, Jushin Liger said he felt like he had been given a second chance in life and was going to make the most of it in the ring. If his performance in his first match back is any indication, he's going to make good on that vow. He beat Chris Benoit in a fast-paced contest. The two men embraced afterward.

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

Steve Austin continues to tell everyone that he is simply "the best" (as opposed to Bret Hart, who has always claimed to be "the best there is, the best there was, and the best there will be") and challenge "The Hitman" to a match in the U.S. Perhaps he'll fare better than he did during the WWF's tour of South Africa. He lost to a rusty Hart in their one singles match there.

TOKYO, JAPAN

Many thought Stan Hansen had little chance to beat the younger, quicker Kenta Kobashi for the All-Japan Triple Crown on September 5, but he *almost* proved them wrong. He wrestled one of his best matches in years and nearly pinned Kobashi after a power bomb. He ultimately lost, but the four-time Triple Crown champ has vowed to win those belts at least once more before he retires.

HOT SHOT

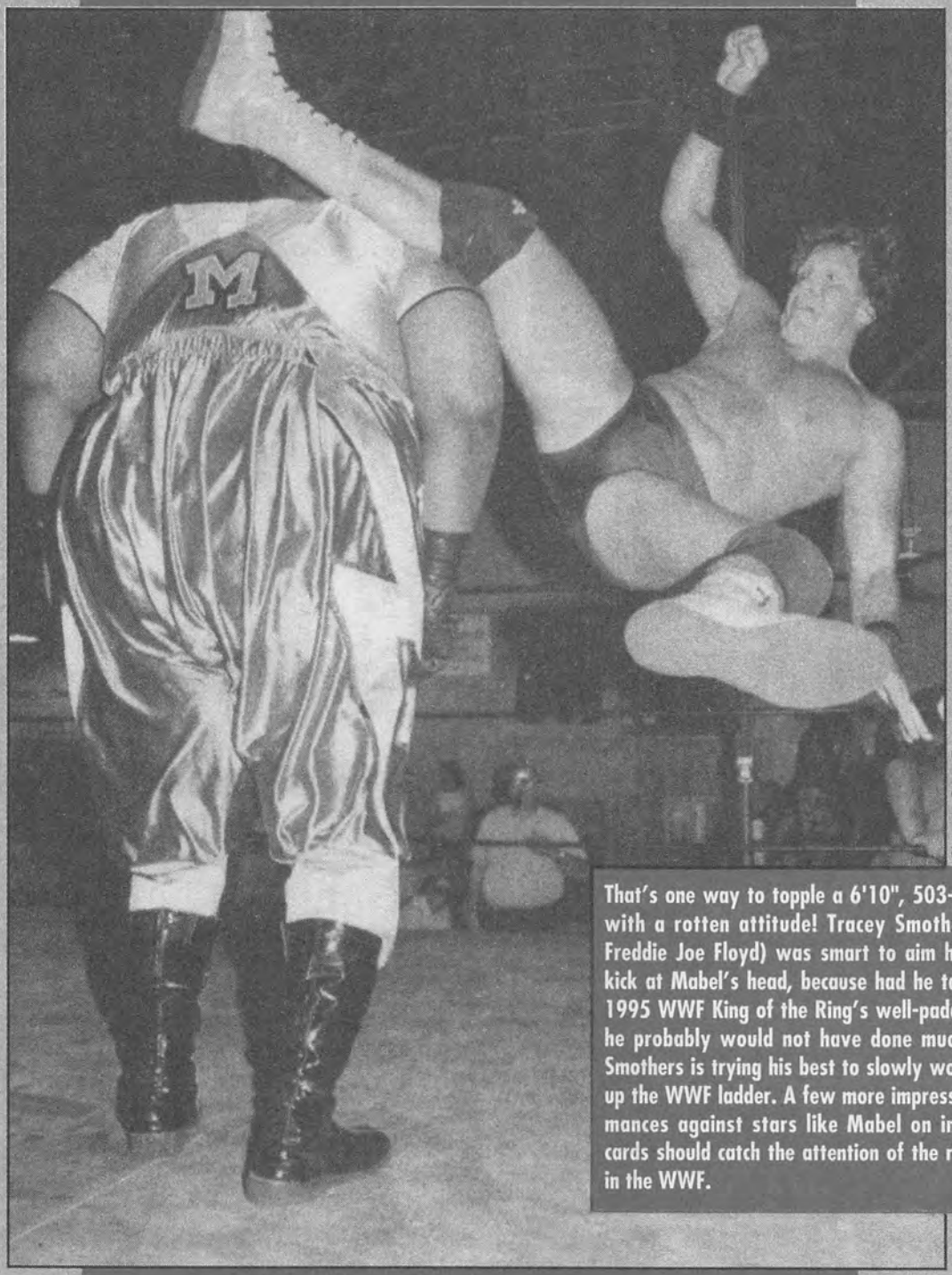


Photo by Steve Bryant

That's one way to topple a 6'10", 503-pound man with a rotten attitude! Tracey Smothers (a.k.a. Freddie Joe Floyd) was smart to aim his spinning kick at Mabel's head, because had he targeted the 1995 WWF King of the Ring's well-padded middle, he probably would not have done much damage. Smothers is trying his best to slowly work his way up the WWF ladder. A few more impressive performances against stars like Mabel on independent cards should catch the attention of the right people in the WWF.

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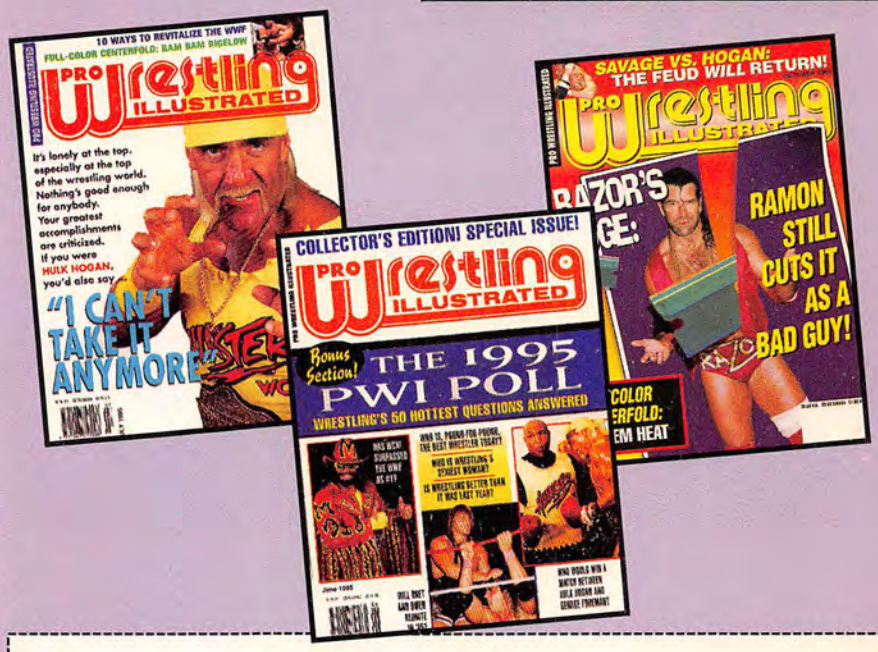

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